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CANADA AND THE BRITISH DRUG-TRADE.

OUR representative, Mr. W. B. Robertson, is leaving Liverpool on Saturday, June 25, for a short tour through the eastern provinces of Canada. He will arrive at St. John's, Newfoundland, about July 4, and will afterwards proceed to Halifax, St. John's, New Brunswick, Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, &c. The object of his journey is to investigate the opportunities for British trade and to extend the influence of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST throughout the Dominion.

INSETS.

THE Summer Number of this Journal will be published on July 30. We can receive trade circulars, price-lists, and specimens of handbills for inserting in it. This is a good way of advertising, and it is the cheapest and most effective way of bringing a circular to the notice of the trade. For, besides being annexed to a journal which is sure to attract attention, and is fairly certain to be kept, the cost is not more than one-third that of postage alone, and the advertiser gets the benefit of the finest list of names, home and colonial, obtainable. The only thing we stipulate regarding insets is that they must be on pages of size similar to the pages of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, but they may be of a distinctive colour. For further particulars apply to the Publisher, C. & D., 42 Cannon Street, E.C.



A LARGE NUMBER of legal queries are replied to this week (p. 1037).

A TITLE-PAGE and index for this volume are inserted between pp. 1030 and 1031.

A CHEMIST'S POWDER has been the subject of a Coroner's inquest at Haworth (p. 1010).

MR. W. B. JEVONS, of Market Rasen, reports his experience with a motor-tricycle (p. 1035).

MR. G. ROE alleges that the B.P. liq. strychnine hydrochlor. deposits crystals (p. 1035).

IMPORTERS are raising difficulties about the presence of spirit in extract of witch-hazel, B.P. (p. 1025).

THE MEDICINAL AND HYGIENIC EXHIBITS at the Royal Agricultural Society's show are dealt with on p. 1027.

PROFESSOR RAMSAY and MR. TRAVERS have discovered two more gases in the air—neon and meta-argon (p. 1024).

IN our analytical competition for May the whole of the students detected the basic radicles (K and Na) (p. 1003).

OUR report of the dinner of the P.A.T.A. is illustrated with a portrait of the new President (Mr. Hall) and several sketches (p. 1015).

THE MEDICAL COUNCIL has again failed to persuade a metropolitan magistrate that a "M.D. New York" may not use that title here (p. 1018).

INTIMATION is given by leading members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland that they intend to oppose the Government Poisons Bill (p. 1017).

MESSRS. SOUTHALL, BROTHERS & BARCLAY, of Birmingham, have been registered as a limited company, and offer preference shares to the trade (p. 1023).

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the North British Branch is reported on p. 1015. The two new members of Council are Messrs. Ayre (Perth), and Boa (Edinburgh).

A DUBLIN CHEMISTS' FEDERATION has been formed to promote the interests of chemists and to assist the P.A.T.A. Dr. Walsh has been elected President (p. 1017).

FURTHER FRENCH OPINIONS on the new P.B. are given on p. 1012, where also are some remarks on the future difficulties to English pharmacists starting in France.

THE FRENCH ANTI-CUTTING SCHEME has for the present, at all events, failed, many pharmacists objecting to a condition that they were not to sell articles similar to the protected ones (p. 1012).

DAMAGES have been awarded against a registered druggist at Kells, and against a chemist and druggist at Sligo, on claims by farmers, who alleged errors resulting in loss of cattle (p. 1019).

THE ASSISTANT of a branch drug-store in London has been fined under the Pharmacy Act for selling poison, and a chemist and druggist has been fined for an incomplete entry in the poisons book (p. 1018).

OUR death-list is heavy this week, and includes Mr. G. N. Souratty, an eastern produce-broker, Mr. M. W. Alexander, a former President of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and Mr. Perkins, public analyst for Exeter (p. 1014).

THE GOVERNMENT POISONS BILL is set down for second reading on Friday of this week. No date has yet been fixed for the second reading of the Pharmacy Act Amendment Bill (p. 1021). We comment further on the Government Bill on p. 1022.

THE markets are dull this week and with few changes. Opium is stronger. Rose crop reports look bad for otto. English belladonna and henbane crops are poor. Bark and quinine attract the attention of speculators (see editorial, p. 1023). Cinchona and drug sales have been held in London this week (p. 1031).



CONDUCTED BY RICHARD J. MOSS, F.C.S., F.I.C.

REPORT ON THE MAY ANALYSIS.

The mixture of salts distributed for analysis last month consisted of 2 parts sodium pyroborate, 2 parts sodium thiosulphate, and 1 part potassium ferrocyanide.

Its calculated composition was:—

K	...	...	...	...	7.39
Na	...	...	...	...	12.24
S ₂ O ₅	...	...	...	...	18.06
B ₂ O ₃	...	...	...	...	16.34
Fe(CN) ₆	...	...	...	...	10.05
H ₂ O	...	...	...	...	35.92
					<hr/> 100.00 <hr/>

Samples of the mixture of salts were sent to fifty applicants, and analytical reports were received from twenty-six students. All of these reports record the detection of the two alkali metals. Only four students failed to detect the thiosulphate, and two the ferrocyanide, whilst there were eleven failures in the detection of the boric radicle.

This was a very easy exercise, so far as the bases were concerned; but the acids presented several difficulties. It was an easy matter to detect the three acidulous radicles in the mixture; even the borate presented no particular difficulty. To prove the absence of other acidulous radicles was, however, a very different matter. It was necessary, for example, to show that no chloride was present, but one of the constituents of the mixture of salts—sodium thiosulphate—dissolves silver chloride, so that the simple test consisting of the addition of silver nitrate was not applicable. Moreover the mixture contained a ferrocyanide, and silver ferrocyanide, like the chloride, is insoluble in dilute nitric acid and soluble in ammonia. About the best way of proceeding was to take advantage of the fact that silvercyanogen compounds are decomposed by heat, while the chloride is not. On adding dilute nitric acid to an aqueous solution of the powder, warming and filtering off the sulphur that separated, and adding silver nitrate in excess to the filtrate, a precipitate was obtained which must have contained any chlorine present, along with silver ferrocyanide. This precipitate was then washed, dried, and ignited, the residue fused with sodium and potassium carbonates, and the mass treated with water and filtered. In this way a solution was obtained which contained any chlorine originally present in combination with the alkali metals and mixed with their carbonates, so that the usual tests for chlorides could be readily applied.

In testing for nitric acid similar difficulties were encountered. The application of the ferrous-sulphate test was interfered with by the thiosulphate and ferrocyanide. It was possible to remove the hydroferrocyanic acid by means of ferric chloride or copper sulphate, and then to decompose the thiosulphate with dilute sulphuric acid, filtering off the sulphur. In this way a solution was obtained to which ferrous sulphate and strong sulphuric acid could be added without producing any precipitate or colour that would interfere with the nitric-acid test. Of course, the action of sulphuric acid and copper on the dry powder was also available as a test for nitric acid, but it is at best a rough test, only applicable to comparatively large quantities of nitrates.

These illustrate the kind of difficulties the analysis presented. Some of our correspondents made no attempt at facing them, but simply contented themselves with proving certain acids present. It is remarkable that there were several failures to detect boric acid by the alcohol-flame test; the green colour was very easily produced. A little of the powder in a porcelain capsule was treated with two or three times its volume of strong sulphuric acid, alcohol added, and the whole thoroughly mixed with a glass rod. On setting fire to the alcohol it burned with a green flame, best seen in a rather dark place, and while the mixture was stirred with the glass rod. At best the light emitted by such a flame is faint, and it is not easily seen in broad daylight.

PRIZES.

The First Prize for the best analysis has been awarded to

ARTHUR E. BEESTON, c/o Messrs. Fuller & Co.,
Chemists, Rampant Horse Street, Norwich.

The Second Prize has been awarded to

JAMES MURDOCH, 273 Dumbarton Road, Glasgow.

MARKS AWARDED FOR ANALYSES.

A. E. Beeston	...	...	100	A. J. Bills	...	...	84
James Murdoch	...	...	99	R. Walton	...	...	83
A. E. King	...	...	98	C. A. W.	...	...	82
T. H. H. Francis	...	...	97	Harry O'Vistus	...	...	80
C. Packham	...	...	96	L. R. D.	...	...	80
B. Cockburn	...	...	94	D. J.	...	...	78
Urotropin	...	...	94	Kieselguhr	...	...	75
Dover	...	...	93	Hydrargyrum	...	...	73
Lux	...	...	93	Vectis	...	...	70
Algol	...	...	92	B. P. S.	...	...	67
Aberthaw	...	...	90	Nitroxyl	...	...	65
P. D. M. Aberdeen	...	...	90	C. Manfull	...	...	55
Oxon	...	...	85	R. T. S.	...	...	25

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Prizes.—The students to whom prizes are awarded are requested to write at once to the Publisher, naming the book they select, and stating how they wish it forwarded.

Any scientific book that is published at a price not greatly exceeding half a guinea may be taken as a first prize.

Any scientific book which is sold for about five shillings may be taken as a second prize.

Note.—All communications should include the names and addresses of the writers.

Oxon.—In the first experiment you tried you should have noticed the peculiar intumescence or swelling up that took place before the substance fused; this was very suggestive of borax.

A. J. Bills.—You report that barium chloride gave no precipitate in an aqueous solution of the powder; you must have used a very weak solution or very little barium chloride. A drop of barium-chloride solution added to about ten times the volume of a fairly strong solution of the powder gave a precipitate which disappeared on mixing the liquids, but on adding the reagent freely a copious permanent precipitate of barium borate and thiocyanate was produced.

R. Walton.—The flame-coloration of boric acid was easily observed with the original powder, by moistening a portion with sulphuric acid and introducing it on a platinum-wire into the coolest part of the Bunsen-flame, just above the burner.

C. A. W.—You applied no test capable of detecting a borate.

HARRY O'VISTUS.—The iron present was a constituent of hydroferrocyanic acid, not basylous iron, an important distinction.

L. R. D.—Sulphites alone, when decomposed by an acid, do not yield a precipitate of sulphur. Sulphur separates when an acid acts upon certain sulphides; the reagent known as ammonium sulphide is a familiar example. The production of sulphur and sulphur dioxide by the action of dilute acids—even acetic acid—characterises thiosulphates.

D. J.—See remarks to "H. O'Vistus." The cobalt-chloride test you applied to the dark-coloured product of the ignition of the powder is only applicable to white infusible substances, such as magnesia, zinc oxide, phosphates, &c.

KIESELGUHR.—You did not apply the alcohol-flame test for boric acid in the best way. Some of the powder in a porcelain capsule should be treated with sulphuric acid in decided excess, alcohol then added and set on fire; it will burn with a green flame if boric acid is present. The colour is intensified by stirring the mixture with a glass rod while the alcohol is burning.

HYDRARGYRUM.—The sulphide you detected was a product of the decomposition of the thiosulphate. The simultaneous separation of sulphur and production of sulphur dioxide, under the influence of dilute acids, is characteristic of thiosulphates.

VECTIS.—You state in your report that "the original salt heated alone on platinum-foil behaved very much like borax," yet you made no attempt to detect boric acid. A strong burnt-sugar odour always accompanies the carbonisation of tartrates by heat; there was no such odour in this case.

B. P. S.—The precipitate you obtained on warming with dilute sulphuric acid consisted of sulphur, not calcium sulphate, which would present a totally different appearance. It is only strong solutions of calcium salts that give a precipitate under such circumstances, as calcium sulphate is somewhat soluble in water. The aqueous solution of the powder did not give a precipitate with ammonium oxalate.

NITROXYL.—You state that on adding dilute hydrochloric acid to an aqueous solution of the powder there was no effervescence, and therefore a thiosulphate was absent. It is only a very strong solution of a thiosulphate that could contain enough of the salt to liberate sulphur dioxide in sufficient quantity to cause effervescence, because the gas is very soluble in water. The important thing to observe was the simultaneous production of sulphur and sulphur dioxide.

C. MANFULL.—You reported that ferric chloride gave no precipitate when added to a solution of the powder; it gave a copious blue precipitate of ferric ferrocyanide (Prussian blue). You must have used some other reagent by mistake. See remarks to "Kieselguhr."

R. T. S.—You should have been able to recognise the very characteristic smell of sulphur dioxide produced on adding a dilute acid to a solution of the powder. You should study the reactions of the acids experimentally. In examining mixtures of salts you must be prepared to encounter difficulties arising from the action of the salts upon one another.



Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Carbolic Acid and Jury Recommendations.

An inquest was held, on June 18, at Glossop respecting the death of Mr. T. Dutton, a local tradesman, who committed suicide by taking a quantity of carbolic acid. In reply to the Coroner (Mr. Sidney Taylor), Dr. Heale stated that carbolic acid could be bought anywhere. The Coroner, addressing the jury, said that numerous representations had been made by juries to have the poison scheduled, but the authorities would not consent to it. He did not know whether it would be worth while to go over the whole ground again. Mr. H. Kinder, chemist and druggist, who was one of the jury, said chemists would rather it was scheduled, as they would then have more control over the sale.

Medicine-mistakes.

The Liverpool City Coroner held an inquiry, on June 17, into the circumstances attending the death of William Burnell, a metal-broker, who lived at Moss Lane, Aintree. The evidence was to the effect that deceased was discovered lying dead in bed. There was a bottle containing carbolic acid on the mantelpiece. The deceased had been in the habit of getting up every morning for the purpose of taking a glass of Apenta water, and the family were of opinion that he had taken the poison in mistake. Verdict of suicide by taking carbolic acid.

At the Liverpool Coroner's Court, on June 16, an inquiry was held concerning the death of John Johnstone, aged 54 years, a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Edinburgh, who lived at 53 Oxford Street, Liverpool. It appeared that for ten years past deceased had been in the habit of taking morphia. He was found in the consulting-room lying dead on the couch, and beside him was a bottle of hydrocyanic acid and a measure. Dr. F. W. Bailey and Dr. Robertson expressed the opinion that death was caused by prussic-acid poisoning, which the deceased had possibly mistaken for solution of morphia, both drugs being similar in colour. The jury found that death was due to misadventure.

Drug-contracts.

Mr. J. T. French, of Sittingbourne, has been appointed to supply chemists' goods to the Sittingbourne Union Workhouse.

The Isle of Wight Board of Guardians have accepted the tender of Mr. R. Smith, of Newport, for the supply of drugs and chemicals to the workhouse.

East Ashford Board of Guardians have accepted the tender of Messrs. Apps Brothers, Brabourne, for the supply during the ensuing quarter of carbolic soap at 28s. per cwt., and arrowroot at 1s. 2d. per lb.

Wanted a Tonic.

At Northwich, on June 17, John Duncan Elliott, a shabby-genteel old man, who came from Manchester, but could not remember his address, was charged with stealing a bottle of quinine-tonic from a chemist's shop in the town. A valuable gold pencil, a gold brooch, and a crossed cheque for 13l., &c., were also found upon him, and as he admitted having served six months' in Strangeways he was remanded for inquiries.

Weed-killer Poisoning.

Several cows have been poisoned in the neighbourhood of Kettering by eating grass on the road-side which had been treated with a weed-killing solution by the officials of a local governing body.

Lamps and Signs.

The London County Council have in view a decree against advertising-lamps. It is proposed that all outside overhanging lamps shall be licensed, and that no lamp shall be sanctioned that is less than 10 feet above the pavement or which projects more than 4 feet from the main wall. It must not exceed 2 feet in width or 4 feet in height, and must not carry any advertisement other than the name of the owner of the premises. Provision is to be made that the lamp must be kept burning at definite hours.

Presentation at Exeter.

At Exeter, on June 20, a presentation was made to Mr. W. H. Dalglish, who for twenty-four years was manager to Messrs. J. Townsend & Son, medical-label printers, Exeter. Mr. Dalglish is about to enter the business now being carried on in Exeter under the style of Besley & Dalglish (Limited), a business that has been established for over 100 years. A deputation representing the various departments of the firm of Messrs. Townsend & Son waited upon Mr. Dalglish at his offices in South Street to make the presentation, which consisted of a walnut writing-cabinet and an oak smoker's-cabinet, together with a framed illuminated address, bearing the names of about 200 subscribers and an appropriate inscription.

Application for Wine-licence Transfer.

At the Lancaster County Sessions on June 18, an application was made for the temporary transfer of the off-licence held by Mr. J. J. Fell, chemist and druggist, Morecambe, to Mr. F. N. Whitehead, who has acquired Mr. Fell's business. The superintendent of police objected on the ground that insufficient notice had been given him. The Magistrates upheld this objection, and the application was accordingly adjourned.

Chemists at Cricket.

Metropolitan College of Pharmacy C.C. v. Allenburys C.C. Played at Wadham Lodge, Walthamstow, on May 28. Score:

M.C.P., 24; Allenburys C.C., 61, of which 31 were made by W. Little, who also took four wickets for 9 runs.

Davy Hills C.C. played Kepler C.C. at Brockley on June 18. Scores: D.H.C.C., 163; Kepler, 44. For the winners J. Sibley scored 53 and R. Edward 49.

South London School of Pharmacy v. Pharmaceutical C.C. (Bloomsbury Square). Played at Nunhead on June 18. Pharm. C.C., 74 (Whiting, 27). S. London C.C., 115 (Armstrong, 26; C. Jones 14, not out). For the winners Bancroft took seven wickets for 29 runs and Watson three for 30.

Taylor's Drug Company (Limited) v. Reynolds & Branson (Limited). Played at Leeds on June 18. Taylor's cricketers were all out for 32, and the Reynolds' men had reached 40 when nine of their wickets had fallen.

Assault.

At the Bournemouth Police Court Percy Young, a butcher's assistant, was summoned for assaulting Mr. George Kelly Corrman, chemist, of Parkwood Road, Pokesdown. Defendant further threatened to "do" for him if summoned, and the Bench convicted, fining defendant 15s., including costs.

Fires.

A serious fire took place on June 16 at the chemical-works of Messrs. Sadleir & Co., Stamshaw, Portsmouth. Damage estimated at several thousand pounds was done before the outbreak could be subdued, the flames being fed by large quantities of tar and oil.

A destructive fire occurred in Heddon Street, Regent Street, last week, and among those who suffered was Mr. W. Toogood, druggists' sundriesman. The roof of Mr. Toogood's premises was damaged by fire and breakage, and the basement and contents by water.

On June 15 a fire occurred at the residence of Mr. G. Keeley, chemist, 13 Station Terrace, South Shore, Blackpool. Damage to the extent of 30l. was done.

Chemists' Outings.

The Leicester Chemists' Social Union had a trip to London on June 16. Amongst the party of thirty-five were Messrs. Ellis, Hearnshaw, Brice (Wigston), E. H. Butler, jun., Richardson, Goodess, Hampden, Farnival, Lewis Ough, F.C.S., Elliott, G. Ward, Jackson, Elmitt, Neale Dunmur, Biggs, Hodgson, Dobson, Thirlby, S. Cleaver Berry, Fisher, Maxfield, Wright, and Dr. Gardiner, besides ladies. After visiting the Exhibition, where a good tea was partaken of, the party took the train back, and arrived at Leicester in the early hours of Friday. The next half-day excursion will be in brakes to Lutterworth on Thursday, July 14.

The employes of Messrs. F. Newbery & Sons tripped to Chislehurst on Saturday last, and spent a pleasant day. A cricket-match was one of the attractions; dinner was another. This was served at the Crown Hotel, and then followed a lengthy programme of music and song. During an interval Mr. Lionel Newbery made a pleasant speech to those present, encouraging the juniors to emulate those who had so long helped to build up and carry on the business. Mr. E. Pickering also made a few chatty remarks, reminding his hearers that as years went on the house of Newbery did not grow smaller. The weather was fine, and Messrs. F. H. Pews and A. Homewood were accorded a hearty vote of thanks for their exertions in organising the outing.

Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co. gave their staff a pleasant outing to the seaside on Saturday last. The party reached Portsmouth about 11 A.M., and after a stroll through that interesting town found their way to the Esplanade Hotel, Southsea, where dinner was served. Close upon 250 men sat down together, all except four guests being connected with the staff. Mr. C. E. Webb presided at the partners' table, and was supported by some of the representatives and the heads of the different departments. After dinner, Mr. F. Allen, one of the town representatives, proposed the health of the firm, expressing the thanks of the staff for their liberality. Mr. H. Arnold and Mr. Webb responded. Mr. Charles W. White, the firm's representative in India, rose in response to repeated and enthusiastic calls from all parts of the room, to congratulate the whole staff on

the way in which they had seconded his efforts on behalf of the firm in the Far East. The company having been photographed, the remainder of the afternoon was spent by, in, or on the bounding billows, or listening to the military band on the pier. Tea at the hotel concluded the day's programme, and a special express brought the trippers back to Waterloo at 9.

L.C.C. Contracts.

At the weekly meeting of the London County Council held on Tuesday it was agreed, on the recommendation of the Stores Committee, to accept the following tenders for the supply of disinfectants for twelve months from July 1, 1898, to June 30, 1899:—J. L. Wade & Co. (Limited), Adcock, Easton & Co., Middleton Brothers, G. Mayor & Co., Sanitas Company, and Newton, Chambers & Co. The same committee had also considered tenders for the supply of chemicals for one year as follows:—Townson & Mercer, 176l. 12s. 5d.; Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co., 184l. 0s. 10d.; Baird & Tatlock, 193l. 19s. 7d.; and Harrington Brothers, 214l. 18s. 4d. Messrs. Townson & Mercer had previously supplied the Council with chemicals and chemical apparatus, and as their tender was the lowest the committee recommended that it be accepted, and this was agreed to. It was reported by the Main Drainage Committee that for the purpose of softening and purifying the water used in the boilers it was necessary to obtain about 25 tons of caustic soda annually, and the following tenders had been obtained:—The Egis Company, 7l. 10s. per ton; Messrs. A. J. Luke & Co., 7l. 13s. 9d. per ton; Messrs. Brunner, Mond & Co., 7l. 15s. per ton; and Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co., 7l. 15s. per ton. The lowest tender was accepted. Tenders for the supply of proto-sulphate of iron were received and referred to the Main Drainage Committee from David Matthews (Swansea), Swansea Copperas Company (Swansea), J. Beran & Son (Llanelly), T. Herschel Jones & Co. (Swansea), H. Wallace & Co. (Fenchurch Street), Higginbottom & Co. (Manchester), W. R. Renshaw & Co. (Victoria Street); and for the supply of lime from C. Christopherson & Co., Trechmann, Weekes & Co., Hall & Co., L. Sommerfeld, H. Wallace & Co., W. Fletcher, Tolhurst & Son, at prices in the schedule.

On the Roof to Rest.

Early on the morning of June 18 a man was discovered on the roof of the premises of Mr. H. Johnson, chemist and druggist, 146 Gooch Street, Birmingham. After some trouble he was arrested, and gave the name of Ashton Rose, describing himself as a comedian. To the Magistrates he told the story that he had climbed on the roof to rest; but the police knew him best as an associate of thieves, and for the next three months he will have to be content to rest under one of her Majesty's roofs.

A Chemist's Powder Suspected.

At Haworth, near Keighley, on Tuesday, an adjourned inquest was held upon the body of John William Place (11), who died on May 27 last. At the inquiry opened on May 31 there were present Mr. Percy Naylor and Dr. Long, of Keighley, on behalf of Mr. F. Tidswell, chemist, Haworth, who supplied a powder to deceased. The father said that on the evening of May 27 deceased complained of feeling unwell, and he told him to go to a druggist and get something. The lad went, and returned with a powder which he said he had got from Mr. Tidswell, who had told him to eat nothing about the time the powder was taken. The powder about half-filled a teaspoon, and was rather brown, or snuff-coloured. After taking it deceased remarked that it was nasty. It was ten minutes to 10 when the boy took the powder, and about an hour afterwards he began to scream, and told his father to rub him. He was stretched out stiff, and was in great agony. Dr. Walker, of Haworth, was called in, but the lad died soon after 11 o'clock. The doctor's evidence was to the effect that the symptoms were tetanic, and pointed to some irritant. There was no evidence of disease in the body such as would cause death. On that evidence the Coroner said the proper course would be to send the contents of the viscera and stomach for analysis. The inquiry was then adjourned until Tuesday last, when Mr. William Ackroyd, analyst, Halifax, stated that he had analysed the viscera and other parts of the body, and found them to contain traces of strychnine

He had also examined a duplicate powder similar to that stated to have been supplied to the deceased, and in that he failed to find any traces of strychnine. In reply to the jury, he said his examination was a qualitative one, therefore he could not determine the percentage of strychnine; neither could he say whether the percentage of strychnine was sufficient to cause death. Mr. Tidswell, chemist, stated that he kept the poison-bottles quite apart from the other bottles, and he could not possibly see how he could have made a mistake with any label. Mr. Hayler, solicitor, said Mr. Tidswell had had nothing to drink that day, and, in fact, had been teetotal since Easter. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the death was due to misadventure; that the deceased was poisoned by strychnine, but that they could not state how he got it.



Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.—July Examinations.

The last days for lodging applications for the following examinations will be:—Monday, June 27, for the Pharmaceutical Assistant's; Tuesday, June 28, for the Registered Druggist's; and Wednesday, June 29, for the Pharmaceutical Licence.

Sulphate of Copper and Spraying-machine.

Mr. S. McKinney, Cookstown, manager of the Ulster Chemists (Limited), has secured an order for sixty-six potato-sprayers through the Guardians of Magherafelt Union unofficially. Mr. McKinney took up the system of treating potatoes with sulphate of copper four years ago, and, assisted by the local press, introduced it so far in the Cookstown district that its use is now practically universal.

Drug-contracts and the new B.P.

At a meeting of the Naas Board of Guardians last week the Clerk stated that he had written to Messrs. Leslie & Co., chemists, Dublin, asking if the medicines supplied by them were compounded under the British Pharmacopœia of 1885 or 1898, the latter being in force when their contract began. Messrs. Leslie, in reply, stated that the new B.P. was not in existence when they were appointed drug, &c., contractors, and they therefore prepared the medicines from the old edition, and would continue to do so until their contract expired. This arrangement would give them time to study up the new work. Mr. Manders: The contract was taken in 1898, and the new B.P. was then in force. The Clerk said, No; it had only just been published.

A Company-promoter.

An advertiser in the *Irish Times*, hailing from Leinster, offers his medical hall and pharmacy as a going concern to persons desirous of starting a limited company. He adds that he will sell the lot "cheap," and naively hints that with capital the place could be greatly extended.

Business Changes.

Messrs. Fannin & Co. (Limited), Dublin, are about to open in Belfast a branch of their pharmaceutical and surgical-appliance establishment.

Messrs. Hoyte & Co., the Sackville Drug-hall, Dublin, have completed extensive improvements to the exterior of their concern in Lower Sackville Street.

The proprietor of a well-known pharmacy in Limerick is about to open a branch medical hall in Dublin. Suitable premises are being secured on the north side of the city.



Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Cattle-food Values.

At the annual general meeting of the Highland and Agricultural Society held at Edinburgh on June 15, under the presidency of the Earl of Haddington, Dr. Shirra Gibb reported that the most important work done recently in the chemical department concerned two feeding-experiments carried out on a large scale, one of them with fifty cattle, and the other with eight score of sheep. The object of the former was to test the value of the nutrient ratio as a guide in cattle-feeding, and at the same time to determine the relative feeding-values of various feeding-stuffs. The results of this experiment have shown that, while the nutrient ratio is of value in determining the relative feeding-effect of substances of a similar kind, it fails to be a reliable guide in the regulation of a mixed dietary. The sheep-feeding experiments were undertaken with the object of testing the relative feeding-value of home-grown grain and bought-in feeding-stuffs. The latter were found to be more economical when fed to sheep consuming a full diet of turnips. It was also noticed that a more nitrogenous dietary increased the clip of wool, while a more farinaceous one increased the amount of loose fat. The experiments with nitrogen on various leguminous crops have all given negative results, showing that, however interesting the substance may be from a scientific point of view, it is of no importance in practical agriculture. The first of a series of experiments to test the value of farmyard manure when applied to the various crops in a rotation has been undertaken by Dr. Shirra Gibb at Boon. The committee have also under consideration a series of experiments with basic slag in order to determine the conditions under which that manure can be employed with advantage. Mr. A. N. McAlpine, botanist to the Society, reported that during the past season he had examined over a hundred samples of clover and grass seeds. As a rule, the percentage of purity was very high, ranging from 95 to 100.

Pharmacy Mission.

At the rather formal meeting of the executive of the North British Branch held before the annual meeting last Friday, the only interesting bit of business was an application by Dr. Kepple Paterson, on behalf of the Medical Missionary Institution, for a loan of cases or specimens for use in connection with a Medical Mission Exhibition, to be held in Heriot's Hospital during the meeting of the British Medical Association in Edinburgh next month. It was resolved to assist the institution in any way that might be found possible.

Botanising.

The Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices Association made their first botanical excursion of the season on Friday of last week to Cramond Brig by Caledonian train at 3.7 P.M. They wandered along the valley of the river Almond for about a mile and a half, returning by the opposite bank. The district was new to most of the members, and proved a rich one. Many interesting specimens were gathered and described by Mr. Rutherford Hill, who conducted the excursion. Among evidences of the late season *Eraxinus excelsior* on tree was noted without a single open leaf-bud—an unusual circumstance so late as the middle of June; and though *Scrophularia aquatica* and *S. nodosa* were found, it was observed that neither of these species was in flower. The weather was fine, and a smart six-miles' walk brought the party back to town about 11 o'clock.

The Glasgow School of Pharmacy, under the guidance of Mr. Lofthian, principal, made a botanical excursion to Garelochhead last Saturday. The outing proved to be the most profitable of the season, and the spot visited a rich mine for the field-botanist.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

FREE MEDICINE.—At Chartres the municipality tried for some time a system of subventioning a society for supplying free medicaments as a means of assisting the indigent poor, but the Society became so popular, and attracted so large a *clientèle*, that it had to be abandoned. It formed the subject of a lively discussion at a meeting of the Chartres Town Council a few days ago, and when one member complained that persons had been remarked going to receive their medical outdoor relief while smoking good cigars, the Mayor jocularly replied that they were perhaps included in the treatment. The town has now a dispensary of its own, with 800 families inscribed on its books for free medicine.

FRENCH OPINION ON THE NEW B.P.—M. A. Domergue, professor at the Marseilles School of Pharmacy, publishes in the current number of the *Répertoire de Pharmacie* a review of the new B.P. He specially refers to the adoption of the metric system, and calls it a "real progress which marks a great stride towards the generalisation of our (the French) legal system of weights and measures." He calls attention to the leading additions and suppressions of various products, but does not discuss them. M. Domergue reviews the general arrangement of the book, and adds:—"It is not without interest to examine carefully certain formulæ of galenical medicaments, which the Commission of our Codex might, perhaps, utilise and adopt." He quotes, as an instance, the B.P. formula for collodion, and also that for fluid extract of cinchona-bark, which he recommends for preparing quinine-wine.

THE NATIONAL OFFICE OF FOREIGN TRADE.—The French official journal published a few days ago an interesting circular from the Minister of Commerce, M. Henry Boucher, to the new body of "Councillors of Foreign Trade," whose names were published recently. He urges upon them the necessity of doing everything in their power to favour the export-trade of France, and indicated the means by which they can be of most service. The circular adds: "In a general way my department desires above all to receive information concerning the markets where you reside or with which you transact business." This course is the most elementary part of the programme, but French manufacturers and merchants are not generally credited with inclination to work *pro bono publico*. An additional list of councillors for French foreign trade has been issued by the Minister of Commerce. This includes several chemical-manufacturers and M. Blanchard, perfumer, of Manila, but it is probable that the latter gentleman will be unable to render much service for the present.

THE FRENCH ANTI-CUTTING SCHEME has received a check which will probably be fatal. The General Association of French Pharmacists succeeded in getting over 5,000 adherents to the project, that being the number stipulated by the fifty-one patent-medicine manufacturers who were the other parties to the scheme for maintaining prices. But when the time came for signing the anti-cutting contract, about a thousand of the pharmacists who had promised to join drew back. It is difficult to give an exact reason for so large a number having withheld their support. Doubtless a clause in the contract, which prevented the sale by the anti-cutters of patent medicines similar to those made by the fifty-one manufacturers, had nothing to do with it, but more likely the hostility of a number of the provincial syndicates of pharmacists was the important factor. In any case the negotiations between the manufacturers and the pharmacists are at an end. The Committee of the General Association have had an immense amount of trouble and have gone to considerable expense in the matter, and, although the adhering pharmacists each subscribed a small sum towards the cost of their action, there is still a deficit of something like 300*l*.

THE DRAMATIC SIDE OF PHARMACY.—He was a pharmacy student, and some seven years ago fell in love with a pretty Parisienne named Charlotte. They called their little girl Antoinette, but omitted the formality of marriage. He

took a situation as assistant in a pharmacy of the Place Saint André des Arts, Paris, and Charlotte opened a little shop in the rue Tournefort. For a number of years they were very happy, but some cowardly friend sent him anonymous letters accusing her of infidelity, and the period of quarrelling commenced. He was frequently occupied at the pharmacy from 7 A.M. to 10 P.M., and was only at home for meals and to sleep, but both became so unhappy that a separation was broached. A few days ago, after a more serious breach than usual after dinner, she said, "When you return home you will find two corpses." He scoffed at the idea, but when he came back a few hours later he found the child dead and his paramour dying. Charlotte had lighted a charcoal stove in the bedroom, and had taken strychnine. Her letter of farewell read as follows:—"I commit suicide with your daughter. The life of a woman is too unhappy, and men are too cowardly. I forgive you everything you have made me suffer. Try to be happy." And the little girl added, with her own hand, "Adieu, papa."

ANGLO-FRENCH PHARMACISTS DOOMED.—One evening last week I had a conversation with an English pharmacist in Paris, after closing hours, in the sitting-room behind the pharmacy, ready for a ring of the night-bell. We were comparing the new B.P. with the French Codex, and on this subject the pharmacist said he thought the innovation of using the metric system would probably be of considerable value to English chemists, and it will probably be some time before they adopt it, but I anticipate no difficulty whatever in that respect. As you know, a good many of the English wholesale drug-firms have issued pamphlets on the new B.P., which are of considerable assistance to us. They are all carefully-arranged synopses, especially of the new articles and preparations not before published. Here, for instance, is one from Southall Brothers & Barclay.

After chatting on the relations of the pharmacist and the doctor as regards the B.P., I asked how the latter compares with the French Codex.

"Well, as regards bulk of information, the last Codex is certainly the more important work, but a practical pharmacist like myself would greatly prefer having to consult the English work. I will not now go into a lengthy comparison of the two, but in the Codex you are obliged to refer to the index when making a research, while with the B.P. you can go direct to the point, it being arranged in alphabetical order. But that is a detail. What is more important is the adoption of the metric system, to which I have already referred. This ought to be of considerable service to those numerous pharmacists who have to make up prescriptions for the English tourists and residents in various parts of France and the Continent generally. We may at least hope that the 'reign of terror' to English doctors occasioned by foreign pharmacists having an unfortunate weakness for mistaking grains for grammes is now over, for this form of error has been a constant source of danger to English patients. This is especially important, as we have now to consider that the English chemist in France is practically a thing of the past." "You are referring to the new French pharmacy law?" "Yes," he said; "the law voted just before the late dissolution of Parliament here, to the surprise of us all, by which increased obstacles are placed in the way of foreigners wishing to commence business in France as pharmacists. According to that measure no foreigner has a chance of establishing himself here unless he has had a very complete French education; in fact, he must come to France as a youth, and to all intents and purposes change his nationality. In this matter the leaders of pharmacy here have merely followed the lead of the sister profession of medicine, in which a similar provision has been adopted. It makes no difference to me personally, but I am sorry the course has been adopted, for it seems a sign of weakness when French pharmacists take such a stringent measure against foreigners, for, after all, we are only a handful in the whole country. You could count us all on your fingers, and we are mostly English. Was it Bacon who said 'All States that are liberal towards strangers are fit for empire'? France cannot be included in the 'liberal' number. It is well known that the Englishman travelling abroad likes to have his meals prepared by a French cook, but prefers his medicine made up by a fellow-countryman."

Colonial and Foreign News.

A NEW CHEMICAL-FACTORY is to be established in Glückstadt (Holstein), with a capital of 3,500,000m.

HOLMAN LIVER-PAD COMPANY.—A receiver for this company was appointed on June 2. The company was incorporated in 1893, with a capital stock of \$50,000, and was under the management of Geo. W. Holman.

PHOSPHORUS MATCHES PROHIBITED IN SWITZERLAND.—The Swiss National Council has passed a law prohibiting the manufacture, sale, import and export of matches in which amorphous or yellow phosphorus is an ingredient.

BORAX IN PERU.—The borax industry in Peru is a growing one. In 1897 12,464 tons, valued at 62,430l., were shipped from Mollendo, and in 1896 7,350 tons, valued at 36,970l. The deposits are found some twenty miles in the interior from Arequipa.

QUININE-PILLS BOOM.—Among the more important articles affected by the Spanish-American war are quinine pills. Manufacturers in the United States have been exceedingly busy of late executing emergency orders from the Government.

IT WAS NOT GIN.—Just before the U.S.S. *Greek* left Delagoa Bay in May it was discovered that a gang of forty-four Kafirs had broached cargo containing tincture of nuxvomica, which they thought was gin. They were removed to the hospital in a critical state.

A NEGLECTED INDUSTRY.—Cinnabar mining in Peru was given up years ago, but the mineral is found in many districts, especially in the department of Huancavetica, where the once famous Santa Barbara mine is situated. In the vicinity of this mine many cinnabar-bearing veins are found, and it is asserted that within a radius of thirty miles from the Santa Barbara mine the ore is found in abundance.

A DRUG-TRADE JUBILEE.—On May 10, the fiftieth anniversary of Mr. C. F. G. Meyer's connection with the drug-trade was celebrated by a gathering of his employes at his residence in St. Louis. Mr. Meyer is the principal of the firm of Messrs. Meyers Brothers, which is one of the largest drug-houses in the United States. As a memento of the occasion Mr. Meyer was presented with a claret set of crystal glass on a silver tray with a silver-mounted pitcher.

AN ENTOMOLOGICAL PHARMACIST.—Mr. Oswald Lower, general manager of the Barrier Ranges Apothecaries Company (Limited), Broken Hill, is an enthusiastic student of the lepidoptera of Australia. He has been collecting for over ten years, and his collection numbers over 30,000 specimens, including quite 3,000 Australian species of the microlepidoptera alone. Some of the latter possess amazing brilliance and beauty, never excelled, if ever equalled, in the larger insects. Certain groups are peculiar to Australia, not even occurring in New Zealand, and Mr. Lower says that these would well repay any one of entomological turn of mind to study. Mr. Lower has collected over 5,000 species of moths in the Broken Hill district during the past four years, a large proportion of which are new to science. Mr. Lower has contributed papers to the Royal Society of South Australia, and has been invited to attend the International Entomological Conference to be held at Oxford this year.

DRUGS FOR CUBA.—Since February, 1895, to the present time the Spanish military authorities in Cuba have used the following quantities of drugs: 700,000 oz. of quinine preparations; 8,750 lbs. of opium; 535,800 lbs. of carbolic acid; 3,100 lbs. of corrosive sublimate; 5,214 lbs. of iodoform; 7 cwt. of rhubarb; and 5,600 lbs. of castor oil. The surgical dressings have comprised 17,000 yards of adhesive-plaster, about 146,000 lbs. of cotton-wool, and about 600,000 yards of antiseptic gauzes. Up to the end of January of this year over 3,000,000 lbs. of sanitary materials, valued at 3½ million pesetas, have been used. The war has also cost Spain the lives of fifty doctors and six pharmacists, out of between 500 and 600 of the former and 100 of the latter who have gone out from Spain during that time. Yellow fever accounts for most of the deaths.

South African News.

(From our own Correspondents.)

MR. J. M. LESLIE has had to vacate his premises in Main Street, Port Elizabeth, on account of building-operations. He has removed to Western Road, the residential portion of the town. Mr. Leslie's business is one of the oldest established in Port Elizabeth. His father, Mr. Jno. Leslie, started it.

TRANSVAAL MATTERS.—Business is still very bad. There have been no more failures since our last report, but two branch-pharmacies have been shut up—one voluntarily, the other by fire. Staffs are being reduced both in the retail and wholesale.—It is reported from Pretoria that an assistant to Messrs. Jones & Co., chemists there, has been summoned for selling arsenic without a permit to a woman (Madame Conde), who poisoned herself in the Grand Hotel there with the arsenic.

A SAD END.—On arrival of the mail train at Rosmead Junction, Port Elizabeth, on May 22, Mr. R. J. Bell, youngest son of the late Mr. H. C. Bell, chemist, Grahamstown, was found dead in a railway carriage. He had shot himself with a revolver. No cause is assigned for the rash act. Mr. Bell left Grahamstown on the previous day for Queenstown, in the best of spirits. It was his intention to start practice as a dentist in the latter town. He had just returned from Scotland, where he had taken the L.D.S. diploma.

THE CAPE PHARMACY BOARD, in their annual report, call attention to the fact that unqualified men are still in charge of many chemists' shops; but before any prosecution can be instituted steps have to be taken to trap the assistant by getting him to dispense some scheduled poison. It has been found that fiscal licences have been granted to a chemist and druggist, who has no qualified assistant, for shops miles apart. At the last examination by the Board in May, Messrs. Leeds and Fulton, of Messrs. Lennon & Co., were successful in satisfying the examiners as to their fitness to be registered as chemists and druggists.

AN AWFUL ACCIDENT occurred in Port Elizabeth on May 27, which resulted in the death of Mr. Octavius Stonham, an electrician, who may be known to many at home. In attempting to mount a car Mr. Stonham missed his grip and fell between the car and the trailer, the latter passing over him, causing death instantaneously. The deceased was a native of Maidstone, Kent, where his father, a wholesale druggist and pharmaceutical chemist, is in a large way of business. One of his brothers is Mr. Charles Stonham, F.R.C.S., of Harley Street, London, and another brother is managing-assistant for Messrs. Smart & Copley, pharmacists, Bulwago.

COCAINE IS A POISONOUS ALKALOID.—A case which may interest home chemists has been reported here. A Mrs. Geri had been in the habit of using cocaine for neuralgia and asthma, and purchased some at Mr. I. L. Drège's pharmacy, Port Elizabeth. Mr. Geo. R. Isbert, an assistant, supplied 7 gr. for 6d.; Mrs. Geri inadvertently swallowed the whole 7 gr., and died. When the Magistrate investigated the affair he said he considered that, cocaine being a poisonous vegetable alkaloid, the sale should have been registered. Mr. Isbert had merely entered the sale in the poisons-book, but had not obtained the signature of the deceased.

THE NEW PHARMACOPŒIA.—The *Cape Times* has devoted a leader to the new British Pharmacopœia. The *Times* seems to have taken its information from the *C. & D.*, and has nothing special to say until it hits spt. æther. nit., when it remarks:—"One of the most interesting changes is that affecting our old friend, sweet spirits of nitre. The recent prosecution in Cape Town failed because the Court recognised, what had been decided many years ago in England, that sweet spirits of nitre and spirits of nitrous ether were different products. The new Pharmacopœia has abolished this duality by making the terms synonymous. It remains to be seen whether the authorities who enforce the Food and Drugs Act in this colony will continue to give permission to chemists to label this substance 'Not guaranteed' if they so choose. If chemists extended that practice to other drugs, and did it generally, the public would be adrift on a sea of uncertainty without a compass; and doctors would have to write prescriptions at haphazard."

Marriages.

DE SAXE—FRANKENSTEIN.—On June 14, at the St. John's Wood Synagogue, by the Rev. B. Berliner, assisted by the Rev. H. L. Price, Helene Ethel, eldest daughter of Mr. S. M. Frankenstein, of Dashwood House, New Broad Street, E.C., and "Ravensthorpe," Cleve Road, West Hampstead, N.W., to Albert Edward, third son of Mr. Morris De Saxe, of 101 Alexandra Road, South Hampstead, N.W.

DUCKWORTH—BOOTH.—At St. Augustine's Church, Bradford, Yorks, by the Rev. J. Hubbard, William Duckworth, chemist, Basingstoke, to Miss Booth, Bradford.

JACKSON—POOLE.—On June 22, at Kirkgate Wesleyan Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. W. Scott Page, William Kendall Jackson, chemist, youngest son of Mr. John Jackson (of the firm of Harrison, Parkinson & Co., chemists, Bradford), to Edith Mary, daughter of Mr. R. Poole, Bradford.

JENKIN—GILES.—On June 16, at St. Jude's Church, Collingham Place, Bernard Maxwell, youngest son of the late Henry Charles Fleeming Jenkin, some time Professor of Engineering in the University of Edinburgh, of Stowling Court, Kent, to Margaret May, second daughter of the late Richard W. Giles, pharmaceutical chemist, of 60 Nevill Square, S.W.

MARKELL—RAMSAY.—On April 6, at the Unitarian Church, Liverpool Street, Sydney, Alexander Markell, pharmacist, O'Connell Street, to Ada Ramsay.

Deaths.

ALEXANDER.—On June 6, at St. Louis, Mr. Maurice W. Alexander (aged 53), of heart-disease. Mr. Alexander was well known in pharmaceutical circles in the United States. He graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, and went to St. Louis in 1855. He was for a year with a wholesale firm, and then started in the retail on his own account. He was President of the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1888, and at one time President of the Missouri Pharmaceutical Association.

BOTTOMLEY.—At Stoneleigh, Brighouse, Leeds, on June 16, Mr. J. C. Bottomley, chemical-manufacturer. Aged 68. Deceased was Chairman of the Brighouse Local Board for many years.

FERN.—On June 11, at Huddersfield, Macclesfield, Mr. Isaac Fern, chemist and druggist. Aged 70. Mr. Fern established the business at Huddersfield, which he continued up to the day of his death, in 1854. He was vicar's warden for eleven years and sidesman for six years at Huddersfield Parish Church.

HOBLEY.—At Llanberis, on June 11, Mr. Joseph Hobley, chemist and druggist. Aged 75. Mr. Hobley was in business in Carnarvon, and afterwards in Llanberis for about thirty years.

LONGMIRE.—On June 11, at Barnghyll House, Moresby, Mr. Joseph Longmire, druggist. Aged 88. Deceased was in business in Whitehaven for many years in the shop now occupied by Mr. Bennett, chemist, King Street. Mr. Longmire was a well-known prescriber, being known locally as "The Doctor." He was the pioneer of the aerated-water trade in the town, and in addition traded as a cork-cutter.

PERKINS.—On June 4, at Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Mr. Lithgow T. Perkins, of Brooklyn. Aged 58. Mr. Perkins was in business in Brooklyn for thirty years, which ill-health caused him to relinquish in 1897. He was a founder of the King's County Board of Pharmacy, which he served as President and Secretary, and was chiefly instrumental in the establishment of the Brooklyn College of Pharmacy.

PERKINS.—On June 19, at South Avenue, Polsloe Road, Exeter, Mr. Frank Pince Perkins, public analyst for the city of Exeter. Aged 65. Deceased was one of the oldest public

analysts in the kingdom, and was the Exeter analyst for twenty-six years. A man of considerable scientific attainments, he was mainly instrumental with the late Mr. J. T. Tucker, J.P., in forming the science classes at the Albert Memorial Museum, which were the beginning of the present Technical and University Extension College. In these classes Mr. Perkins taught chemistry with conspicuous success. The breakdown in Mr. Perkins's health arose principally from overwork. The typhoid outbreak at Maidstone some time ago so alarmed the local authorities in Devonshire that an extra number of water-analyses were made, and much of this work fell to Mr. Perkins, the labour entailed therein undoubtedly telling upon his health. Mr. Perkins will be much missed in Exeter and district. He was possessed of singularly gentle manners, a refined temper, extreme modesty, and a great capacity for analytical research. He was an old and valued member of the Society of Public Analysts. He leaves a widow and three children.

PRATT.—At Newbury, on June 20, Mr. Jonathan Burford Pratt, chemist. Aged 84. Mr. Pratt, who was a native of Ilford, but had been in Newbury for fifty years, died very suddenly of heart-disease. He had gained a reputation for remedies for juvenile ailments, and the poorer classes preferred to consult him instead of a doctor. In later years the business has been managed by his son, Mr. Thomas H. Pratt. The deceased took little part in public affairs, but was a member of the Newbury Corporation for some years.

SIMPSON.—On June 6, Mr. J. W. G. Simpson, chemist and druggist, Maidstone.

SOURATTY.—The drug and produce trade of Mincing Lane was much shocked to hear on Wednesday morning that Mr. Gabriel Nicholas Souratty, principal of the firm of G. N. Souratty & Co., colonial brokers, 33 and 39 Fenchurch St., E.C., had died on the previous day from an epileptic seizure. Mr. Souratty was at business as usual up to the end of last week. On the Wednesday evening while with some friends he felt a giddiness come over him, but a simple remedy relieved him, and he went on to the Café Monico with his friends to dine. On Sunday he again had a recurrence of the giddiness, accompanied by epistaxis, and the symptoms increased in gravity until his death at his house in Forest Hill on Tuesday. Mr. Souratty was a bachelor, and was between 50 and 60 years of age. He was a Syrian by birth, and came to London over thirty years ago. After he had obtained an insight into London business methods he started on his own account as a produce broker, dealing especially with Eastern drugs, such as asafoetida, myrrh, and other gum-resins, as well as varnish-resins, Indian hemp, senna, &c. The business was a successful one, and Mr. Souratty had for a considerable time left the control of the drug-department especially in the hands of his partner, Mr. Charles Christy. We understand that the death of Mr. Souratty will not alter the course of the business, but the suddenness of the event has not permitted business affairs to be discussed.

STANLEY.—On June 18, at Oakwood, Rotherham, Mr. Charles Luther Stanley, of Messrs. C. Stanley & Son (Limited), South Yorkshire Oil, Soap, and Manure Works, Wath-on-Dearne. Aged 53.

TANSLEY.—On June 16, at Kids Grove, Mr. Arthur James Tansley, chemist and druggist. Mr. Tansley was taken suddenly ill on June 15 at Al-ager, and died the following morning at his own home, where he had been removed. Deceased was for seven years dispenser at Hartshill Dispensary, and on relinquishing that appointment he started the business at Kids Grove, which he carried on till his death. Mr. Tansley was well known and much respected in the Potteries.

MR. PERCY RIVE, a partner in Smith & Co., chemists, Johannesburg, has gone home to England for a holiday. Mr. Rive went to South Africa about five years ago, and after two years with Messrs. Willet & Co., Port Elizabeth, went to Johannesburg, where he was joined by Messrs. Smith and Alderton (also former assistants of Messrs. Willet & Co.), and together they opened a business on the City and Suburban property, and lately they have established another business at Doornfontein.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

NORTH-BRITISH BRANCH.

THE annual meeting was held at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on June 17, Mr. J. Laidlaw Ewing presiding. There was a fair attendance.

The CHAIRMAN, in some opening remarks, said that the number of voting-papers returned for the executive election was larger than on any previous occasion. That was a sign of increased interest. He deplored the continued large failures in the examinations, and, referring to the report of the Scotch Board sent to the Council last February, expressed surprise that the tone of the report should have been considered in some quarters to be harsh. It was conceived in an opposite spirit, and had been so accepted by many students. Mr. Ewing then spoke of the alteration of the premises, the evening meetings (which were not so successful as was expected), and of the Pharmacy Bill. On the last-mentioned topic he said the short discussion in the House of Commons made it abundantly plain that the Legislature were not in a mood to allow any relaxation of the law regarding the sale of poisons.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE.

Mr. J. R. HILL, the Assistant Secretary, read the scrutineers' report. He stated that 411 voting-papers had been issued and 201 had been returned, and there being no informal votes the latter was the number of votes recorded. The result was as follows:—

SUCCESSFUL.

W. L. Currie, Glasgow ...	180	R. McAdam, Glasgow ...	153
J. L. Ewing, Edinburgh...	177	J. H. Fisher, Dunfermline ...	152
W. R. Kermath, St. Andrews ...	173	G. Coull, Edinburgh ...	145
C. F. Henry, Edinburgh	170	D. McLaren, Edinburgh...	139
A. Strachan, Aberdeen ...	163	J. M. Hardie, Dundee ...	134
J. Bowman, Leith ...	162	D. Mitchell, Inverness ...	131
C. Kerr, Dundee ...	158	J. A. Russell, Glasgow ...	116
Peter Boa, Edinburgh ...	157	J. Moir, Glasgow...	115
		G. M. Ayre, Perth ...	69

UNSUCCESSFUL.

T. Harley, Perth ...	67	C. Cumming, Dundee ...	52
W. Ewan, Edinburgh ...	64	D. H. Ferrier, Dundee ...	53
D. Watson, Glasgow ...	62	W. Dow, Kinross ...	47
C. A. Macpherson, Edinburgh ...	61	A. Graham, Lochgelly ...	45
W. Burley, Edinburgh ...	59	J. H. Thomson, Leichee ...	38

Messrs. Peter Boa and George M. Ayre are the new members, they succeeding Messrs. George Lunan (Edinburgh) and James Paterson (Aberdeen), who have voluntarily retired.

Mr. TOCHER (Peterhead), in moving the adoption of the report, congratulated the members of the Branch on the fact that the Pharmacy Bill had passed the third reading in the House of Commons, and said that members who had taken an active interest at the inception of the measure must feel very pleased that, after a rather fitful career, it had emerged from the conflict intact. Since it had gone so far he, for one, placed greater value on the privileges conferred by the Pharmacy Act of 1868 than he did prior to that discussion. The fact that members of the Legislature were exerting themselves to get the law relating to poisons practically repealed, together with the fact that the Privy Council had a measure in view which, in effect, ignored the application of skill in retailing poisons—these facts did not point to an immediate realisation of their aspirations, or, indeed, to a greater degree of security to the public. But it appeared that there was a greater anxiety on the part of members of Parliament to see the poisons-law stringently enforced by the Society, and that was as it should be. (Applause.) They owed a debt of gratitude to Mr. Cross for his action in the matter. Whatever his intentions were his opposition had had the effect of clearing the air considerably, and chemists and druggists should be encouraged by what had taken place. He hoped to see the day when their true status as pharmacists would be recognised by the

State, as it was in other European countries. (Applause.) He sincerely trusted that the Executive and the Council would give effect to the recommendations made to Colonel Brookfield, and firmly adhere to the view that the sale of poisons should be conducted by competent persons—(applause)—and endeavour to get the law relating to dispensing, which was very far from being confined to pharmacists, put on the same footing as obtained in Ireland and on the Continent. He thought chemists and druggists were now completely enfranchised and could have no ground of complaint against the Society.

Mr. ALEXANDER LAING (Stenhousemuir) seconded the motion, and thought this was a fitting time and place to say that the new Bill was only the beginning. He was greatly pleased to see the reception that had been given to it, and thought the Cross gentleman had done them a world of good in taking the position he did, because it enabled them to get the views of men of intelligence—(laughter)—with regard to the poisons-laws, and to learn that there was great sympathy in Parliament with even more stringent regulations than they had now. (Applause.) He thought the Bill was simply the preliminary to a greater Bill that would secure to pharmacists much greater privileges than they now enjoyed. It was foolish to talk of theirs being a monopoly. It was in the interests of Parliament, and unless pharmacists had some security and impulse towards progress in education they would not devote themselves to these things in a way commensurate with the dignity of pharmacy. (Applause.) And if co-operative stores and such like were to have so great liberties as they now had, it would not be in the interests of the public, and could not promote that education in pharmacy that the Society and the public wished. (Applause.)

The report having been adopted,

The CHAIRMAN declared that the first seventeen gentlemen in the list, with Mr. Walter Hills as President of the Society, Mr. G. T. W. Newsholme, Vice-President, and Messrs. Johnston (Aberdeen) and Storrar (Kirkcaldy) as *ex-officio* members, would form the Executive for the ensuing year.

After votes of thanks to the retiring Executive and the Chairman, the proceedings terminated.

The Proprietary Articles Trade Association.

ANNUAL DINNER.

THE second annual dinner of this Association was held at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Thursday, June 16. The Agricultural Hall would perhaps not be the first choice of a man about town in search of a good dinner; but the P.A.T.A. executive decided to take advantage of the Chemists' Exhibition being held there, when a large influx of country visitors would be probable. Events scarcely justified their hope, at least as regards the attendance at dinner.

The dinner was announced for 7 P.M., but it was nearer half-past that hour before the guests, after some confusion, finally found their allotted places. The total number who sat down was eighty-three, half of whom were representatives of manufacturing and wholesale houses and of the Press. The new President of the Association, Mr. H. J. Hall (Stephen Smith & Co., Limited), presided. On his left sat Mr. Wm. Jones, of Birmingham, the ex-President, who bore a somewhat melancholy mien, natural to a gentleman who reviewed with regret the departed glories of his past year of office. This expression of gloom, however, faded away when, in proposing the toast of "The Ladies," he remarked that he had brought two up to town with him.

Generally the ladies were not in strong evidence. Here and there one or two shed the beneficent rays of their graceful presence upon the scene, but the entire number must have been small.

On the other hand, one saw the faces of many well-known manufacturers and wholesalers, amongst whom were Messrs. Chas. Sanger, E. A. Holloway, H. S. Norris, James J. Hicks, W. Townsend, H. W. Gadd, G. R. Barclay, A. Tebbutt, C. A. Gosnell, L. Newbery, H. Kemp, G. S. Marks (Henry Marks &

Son), and E. Gledhill (Kaputinc, Limited). The following firms were also represented:—Messrs. "Daisy" (Limited); Peter Möller; Maw, Son & Thompson (by seven representatives, in charge of the genial Charles Martin); Oppenheimer,



THE NEW PRESIDENT.

Sons & Co. (Limited); B. W. & Co.; Camwal; Vimbos (Limited); Dent & Co.; Harley & Co.; Ovaline Soap Company; Allen & Hanburys; Warner & Co., Philadelphia; Newton, Chambers & Co.; Corneille, David & Co.; Sanitas Company (Limited); E. Cook & Co.; and W. Edwards & Son.

The small attendance of retail chemists was noticeable. The serried ranks of the three thousand P.A.T.A. retail members who figure in so many speeches were represented by Messrs. S. B. White (Leicester), Albert Cooper, F.C.S., H. C. & A. J. Bullan Cooper, James Chipp, W. R. Barnes, F. T. Garrett (Newport), C. G. Garman, W. F. Smith (Bridgnorth), and C. J. G. Bunker; while Ireland was represented by Dr. J. C. McWalter (Dublin).

The toast-list began with the usual expression of loyalty to "The Throne," the President, in somewhat deprecating tones, as if he felt some apology was due for mentioning the matter at all, murmuring a few appropriate remarks about her Majesty—noble woman—long life, &c. The toast was received with acclamation; and the National Anthem having been sung, the guests settled down anticipating the coming eloquence. The next toast was given by the President, and was to "The Proprietary Articles Trade Association."

Mr. Hall made a good speech, which was somewhat marred, however, either by the caterers or by his natural modesty; for to the whole of his audience, except those on his immediate right and left, he was hidden by a



MR. GILLIGAN (LIEBIG CO.) SELECTS HIS SEAT.

massive candelabrum, around which he occasionally took a furtive peep. The P.A.T.A., he thought, ought to be proud of its record. Three years ago it did not exist,

and to-day it had over three thousand retail members, sixty proprietors, and practically the whole of the wholesale patent-medicine trade. (Cheers.) He knew that chemists were, as a body, reluctant to join new associations, and, considering this fact, their record was an exceedingly good one. One object was to get their local secretaries to promote a better feeling amongst the trade, both among chemists and grocers, so that they might get to know one another better. Their main purpose, however, was to make the trade in proprietary articles profitable to both the grocer and the chemist. (Cheers.) The P.A.T.A. was going better than ever. There was a tendency for manufacturers to subscribe to the Association without protecting their articles. Those proprietors whose articles were already on the protected-list—he referred, he said, to largely-advertised articles—did not regret the step they had taken. (Cheers.) Their late President had told them at the general meeting that afternoon that as the Association now numbered one-third of all the chemists on the register, the time had arrived when they might bite as well as bark. That would be a good maxim for the Association. They intended to work hard during the coming year, and by next year they hoped to number over four thousand members; at any rate they were going to try. He appealed to the trade not to exhibit "showcards," &c., respecting any article upon which a profit was not guaranteed. (Loud cheers.) He had great pleasure in proposing "Success and Prosperity to the P.A.T.A."

Mr. Glyn-Jones replied on behalf of the Association. The energetic P.A.T.A. Secretary is not always noted for the brevity of his speeches. He is so brimfull of his subject, that when he mounts his oratorical Pegasus he is apt to fly away with him. This fact, perhaps, gave point to a little tale he told against himself to the effect that finding he had to speak there that evening he was on the point of sending to his office for some memoranda, when he was advised by the assistant-secretary (Mr. Johnstone, "who is a Scotchman, gentlemen") to also send to the gasworks for a "gasometer." Mr. Glyn-Jones's speech, however, on this occasion was commendably brief, and, as usual, was relieved by an assortment of anecdotes. They must remember, he said, that cutting did not arise from the action of proprietors, though proprietors alone could remedy the evils that arose from cutting. A salient feature of the Association was the number of its local secretaries, to whom they were greatly indebted for the progress already made. He admitted it was somewhat difficult to get retailers to join; but they must remember that the best men had already joined, and that in some places already 90 per cent. of the patent-medicine trade passed through the hands of P.A.T.A. members. (Loud cheers.) While retailers appreciated the work of the P.A.T.A., they were not always ready to subscribe to its funds. This introduced the story of a little chapel in South Wales that wanted redecorating badly, but funds were low. At a prayer-meeting a piece of plaster fell and struck the bald head of a comparatively wealthy deacon, who, when he had recovered his breath, promptly proclaimed his intention of subscribing 10*l.* to the restoration fund. Whereupon an old lady in the room, with quick perception of cause and effect, exclaimed, "Oh Lord! hit him again." (Laughter.) He thought some retailers badly wanted "hitting again." The profitless sympathy which some proprietors so loudly expressed with the movement, but which had no practical result, almost bordered on insult. It was like the sympathy the lady showed the tramp who ostentatiously ate the grass on the front lawn. On seeing him she exclaimed, "My poor fellow! why didn't you tell me before; come to the back garden; the grass is longer there and wants cutting badly." (Laughter.) The retailers held a powerful weapon, for it was evident that manufacturers must join if retailers combined to boycott their goods. (Loud applause.) The next toasts proposed were "The Chemists' Exhibition," proposed by Mr. Harry Kemp, of Manchester, and replied to by Mr. Cantwell; and "The Ladies," proposed by Mr. Wm. Jones (Birmingham), the ex-President, and replied



MR. GLYN-JONES TELLS ANECDOTES.

and to-day it had over three thousand retail members, sixty proprietors, and practically the whole of the wholesale patent-medicine trade. (Cheers.) He knew that chemists were, as a body, reluctant to join new associations, and, considering this fact, their record was an exceedingly good one. One object was to get their local secretaries to promote a better feeling amongst the trade, both among chemists and grocers, so that they might get to know one another better. Their main purpose, however, was to make the trade in proprietary articles profitable to both the grocer and the chemist. (Cheers.) The P.A.T.A. was going better than ever. There was a tendency for manufacturers to subscribe to the Association without protecting their articles. Those proprietors whose articles were already on the protected-list—he referred, he said, to largely-advertised articles—did not regret the step they had taken. (Cheers.) Their late President had told them at the general meeting that afternoon that as the Association now numbered one-third of all the chemists on the register, the time had arrived when they might bite as well as bark. That would be a good maxim for the Association. They intended to work hard during the coming year, and by next year they hoped to number over four thousand members; at any rate they were going to try. He appealed to the trade not to exhibit "showcards," &c., respecting any article upon which a profit was not guaranteed. (Loud cheers.) He had great pleasure in proposing "Success and Prosperity to the P.A.T.A."

to by Mr. Tebbutt, of W. Sutton & Co., who left his audience in some doubt whether he was a bachelor or a Benedict. If the former, which was the general opinion, Mr. Tebbutt's claim to be a "ladies' man" was a somewhat doubtful compliment to his clients.

"The Trade Press" was proposed by Mr. Albert Cooper, and replied to by the Editor of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. Half the company had disappeared by the time when the last toast, that of "The President and Officers," was submitted by Mr. C. J. G. Bunker. In replying, the President paid an especial compliment to their under-secretary (Mr. Wm. Johnstone). He was a man who plodded along, and did not take "No" for an answer. The new committee were all men of business, and he felt sure they would have a healthy report to make next year.



MR. COOPER RESPECTS
THE TRADE PRESS.

The musical arrangements were in the hands of Mr. Arthur Weston, and an excellent programme was well rendered. Miss K. Gledhill, of Huddersfield, unprofessionally, but with very good taste, contributed "Kathleen Mavourneen" as a supplement to the toast of "The Ladies." The attendance at the dinner compared unfavourably with that of last year, which was held at the Holborn Restaurant. The P.A.T.A. executive will be well advised if they arrange their next annual dinner independently of any outside organisation.

Dublin Chemists' Federation.

ON Monday evening, June 20, a meeting of pharmaceutical chemists and chemists and druggists was held at the house of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, Dublin, for the purpose of forming a Dublin Chemists' Federation. Amongst those present were Dr. Walsh, Messrs. William Allen, W. F. Wells, jun., G. Brown, T. Turner, H. Hunt, Conyngham, Kelly, &c. The President of the P.S.I. (Mr. R. J. Downes) took the chair, and referred to the meeting held in Dublin last December, at which Mr. Glyn-Jones, of the P.A.T.A., delivered an address on the working of that Association and at which resolutions were passed approving it and in favour of the establishment of a Dublin Chemists' Federation, and appointing Dr. Walsh convener of a meeting for that purpose. This was that meeting. Many questions arose from time to time, which it would be desirable to have a permanent body to consider. It would not, however, be desirable that the Pharmaceutical Society, whose principal function was the administration of an Act of Parliament, should take upon itself to be acting in trade-matters. There should be a separate organisation for those matters. He did not say that members of the Pharmaceutical Council might not co-operate with that organisation, but he did not think the officials of the one should be officials of the other.

Dr. Walsh then briefly addressed the meeting. In December last he wrote to Mr. Glyn-Jones for some information, and was referred by him to Mr. Darton Gibbs, from whom he obtained a copy of an annual report of the Midland Chemists' Association, of Birmingham, and a copy of the rules of that Society. He (Dr. Walsh) had sent out eighty-four circulars, which he addressed to all the pharmaceutical chemists, registered druggists, and proprietors of wholesale houses whose addresses in the city and suburbs he could find. If any had not received circulars he trusted they would understand that it was through oversight on his part. Mr. William H. Boyd and Mr. Smallman (proprietor of Hunt & Co.) had written sympathising with the movement, but expressing regret that they were unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Walsh read a circular of the P.A.T.A., dated May 4, 1898, asking the proposed Dublin Association to work in conjunction with the P.A.T.A., and suggesting simultaneous monthly meetings of local committees for the purpose of taking action as advised.

On the motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. William

Allen, Dr. Walsh was elected President of the Association, and took the chair. Mr. John Smith was then elected Hon. Secretary; and Messrs. Browne, Ray, Turner, and O'Sullivan were appointed on the committee; and a subscription of 2s. 6d. per annum was fixed for the local Association.

Mr. Conyngham remarked that at the December meeting some who were present would not agree to be members unless unanimous action could be attained. One gentleman refused to be bound by any rules.

The President: At that meeting there was a unanimous adoption of the P.A.T.A. In this Association we do not seek for the present, at all events, to go further in the matter of binding prices, or anything like that. That might be a matter for discussion hereafter. This Association is to be a local nucleus for the P.A.T.A.; but it will be quite open to anybody joining it to express his views as to how far it should go.

Mr. Conyngham said that at the December meeting Mr. McWalter opposed the movement. After some further conversation on this subject

Mr. Downes said the Federation ought to take cognisance of the Bill which had been introduced in the House of Lords by the Duke of Devonshire, entitled "An Act for Regulating the Sale of certain Poisonous Substances." The idea of the measure was to regulate the sale of all poisonous substances which are not at present scheduled as poisons in the Poisons Acts. Mr. Downes read the sections of the Bill, the full text of which has already appeared in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, and said that this Bill was one against which they ought to protest. They should object to a recognition of the sale of "poisonous substances" as distinct from "scheduled poisons." They had in Ireland a class of educated chemists and druggists, in addition to the pharmaceutical chemists, who were specially qualified to sell poisons, and to them should be committed the sale of poisons and poisonous substances, instead of making it possible for such things to be sold by every huxter and grocer. (Hear, hear.) Restriction of the sale of these things was what was wanted, and not widespread permission to sell. The regulations respecting sale provided by the Bill would only hit the seller who was honest enough to comply with them, but afforded no remedy for such mischief as had occurred, because there was no provision that the name of the buyer should be taken. Substances that were poisonous and consequently dangerous should not be allowed to be sold by unqualified persons. That persons having a suicidal intent should be able to get poisons from skilled and qualified persons, and not from grocers or huxters, would be a safeguard to the public.

Mr. Kelly said they had in Ireland between 500 or 600 pharmaceutical chemists and 700 or more chemists and druggists. This gave between forty and fifty pharmaceutical chemists for each county. Why should the means of earning butter for their bread be taken from them after all the educational labour and expense through which they had gone? Likewise, the educated chemists and druggists were settled down through the country, and they would be starved out if the sale of poisons were handed over to others as well as them. The present Bill was evidently the work of men who knew nothing about the sale of poisons. (Applause.)

Mr. Wells said this was a matter which might be safely left in the hands of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society; but he quite agreed with Mr. Kelly that the man who drafted this Bill knew nothing about the subject. It was a very badly-drafted Bill, and if passed as it stood would lead to endless trouble. It was fearful that such a thing as carbolic acid should be classed as merely a "poisonous substance." But what touched pharmacists most was the restrictions on their dispensing which the Bill sought to place on them. Under these everything—except what was for internal use—was to be labelled "Poison" on the box, bottle, parcel, or hamper in which it was contained, together with the name and address of the seller. Some years ago an attempt was made to have medical prescriptions labelled "Poison" when they contained any, but the medical profession would not submit to it; and he contended that pharmaceutical chemists should not be compelled to label anything that they put in doctors' prescriptions. Section 2 of the Bill, which related to the sale of substances for internal use, required the seller to be constantly entering his own name in his own book on the

occasion of each sale, which seemed absurd. He thought the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society should take the matter up, and ask Parliament to leave pharmaceutical chemists and chemists and druggists out of the Bill altogether.

Mr. Downes: The Pharmaceutical Society won't overlook it; but if there were a hundred other societies like the one we have now formed they should all protest against this Bill.

Mr. Conyngham said he thought a protest would come with more weight from the Pharmaceutical Society than from that Society.

Mr. Kelly: The matter should be brought before the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons.

Mr. Downes moved that the Bill be considered by the committee of the Society now formed, and that they either report to a further meeting on the subject or take action themselves.

Mr. Kelly seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

The meeting closed with the usual votes of thanks.

Poisonous Substances Bills.

THE newspapers which have commented upon the Duke of Devonshire's Bill to regulate the Sale of Poisonous Substances almost without exception hail it as a boon and a blessing to the nation. We quote some of the remarks, but not because they are remarkably wise:—

The sale of well-known poisons can be restricted by every precaution known to law or suggested by science. Until quite lately the Pharmaceutical Society has been somewhat lax in the performance of those duties of safeguarding the public which fell to its share, and the Duke of Devonshire is well advised in proposing for the Privy Council the same powers which the Society have hitherto alone been given in the restriction of the sale of poisons. The Duke has also wisely drawn attention to the fact that carbolic acid—a cheap and utterly unregarded poison—is responsible for no fewer than 250 suicides a year in England and Wales. By the system of labels and registered addresses now to be enforced, it may be hoped that involuntary suffering may at least be warded off.

Carbolic acid, accidentally or otherwise, is responsible for the death of at least 250 persons per annum in England and Wales. Its sale has hitherto been entirely unregulated, and although a virulent poison . . . for reasons which appeared weighty and valid, the Privy Council have from time to time refused to add carbolic acid to the list of poisons included under the Pharmacy Act. Poisons placed in the schedule of that Act can only be sold by certain qualified persons, such as registered pharmaceutical chemists and druggists. The Bill introduced by the Duke of Devonshire provides another plan. . . . It may be said that the present Bill does not go far enough, and that it would be better if some system were adopted by which a licence should be necessary for the sale of the various poisons now brought under review. As it is, we are left to the label; but it is intended that the Bill, if passed, shall not be a dead letter. The enforcement of the law relative to the sale of poisons has hitherto rested with the Pharmaceutical Society. The Bill proposes that in future the Privy Council shall have the same power as the Society, and this affords the promise of a more rigorous enforcement of whatever law is passed, the Pharmaceutical Society having been singularly inert—or at least, until lately—in performing its duty to the public.

We are accustomed in this country to expend a great deal of indignation upon our defective pharmacy laws, and their more defective administration, when some unfortunate being succeeds in terminating his existence by prussic acid or aconitine. Yet we pay scarcely any attention to the deaths caused, accidentally and otherwise, by carbolic acid. . . . It is so useful, and even so necessary as a disinfectant, that we cannot deny that the Privy Council have been right in steadily refusing to place it upon the schedule under the Pharmacy Act, and so restrict its sale. . . . The Duke of Devonshire's Bill places no restriction upon its sale, except to provide that the seller must see that the vessel in which it is contained bears a distinct "poison" label, accompanied by his name and address. Surely a simpler method would be to enact that the poison should be tinted scarlet or green, or some other distinctive colour, before being sold to the public.

MOTTO FOR A DENTAL SCHOOL.—"The Tooth, the whole Tooth, and nothing but the Tooth."—*Guy's scope*.

Legal Reports.

THE PHARMACY ACT.

A DRUG-STORE MANAGER FINED.

ON June 16, at Lambeth County Court, before Judge Emden the Pharmaceutical Society sued a man named Langford, who described himself as the manager of drug-stores, for penalties under the Pharmacy Act, 1868. It was proved that the defendant was in charge of 30 Lucas Road, Kennington, at which the business of a chemist and druggist was carried on. On April 13, Mr. James Partridge, an agent of the plaintiff Society, called at the premises, and was supplied by defendant with twopennyworth of laudanum. Defendant was not qualified under the Pharmacy Act. Defendant explained that the former proprietor of the business had just died, and he (defendant) was put in to manage the business temporarily for the executors. The custom of engaging unqualified men was so common that he thought he was quite entitled to undertake the management of the shop. In the stores and big shops it was usual only to keep a qualified manager and unqualified assistants.

Judge Emden: That being so, would it not be more effective to make an example of the rich shopkeepers rather than this struggling assistant?

Counsel for the Society replied that they kept a sharp look-out for breaches of the Act in the large shops and stores.

Judge Emden: Certainly, if what the defendant says is true, the Act is very loosely enforced, and that in a way that is rather alarming. However, as defendant admits the offence, I must give judgment for 5*l.*, but I make no order as to costs.

SALE OF POTASSIUM CYANIDE.

AT the South-West London Police Court, on June 18, George Frederick Handel Bartlett, chemist and druggist, carrying on business at 38 Battersea Park Road, S.W., was charged under the Pharmacy Act with selling cyanide of potassium without recording the sale in a book kept for that purpose. Mr. Nicholls defended. The prosecution was undertaken by the police, to whom information had been given by Mr. Frederick Davis, photographer, St. Philip Street, Queen's Road, Battersea. Mr. Davis deposed that on Whit Monday he went to the defendant's shop, and was served by his manager with $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of cyanide of potassium, which he used in photography. The manager made no entry in the poison-book, and he informed the police of the circumstance. Mr. Nichols admitted the truth of the statement, and addressed the Court in mitigation of the penalty. The business, he said, was left in the hands of a qualified assistant, who forgot for the moment to make the entry. Mr. Francis said the defendant was not relieved of responsibility by the assistant, and he imposed a penalty of 20*s.*, with 2*s.* costs.

MEDICAL COUNCIL'S ABORTIVE PROSECUTIONS.

AT Bow Street Police Court, on June 17, before Mr. Lushington, John Hamilton, of Bedford Avenue, Tottenham Court Road, appeared to two summonses charging him with falsely pretending to be and using the title of Doctor of Medicine, he being an unregistered practitioner. Mr. Muir Mackenzie supported the summonses on behalf of the Medical Council; Mr. Morton Smith defended. A medical student gave evidence to show that he had visited the defendant at his advertised address and paid him two guineas for medicine. On the door was a brass plate bearing the words, "John Hamilton, M.D., New York." Mr. Mackenzie argued on decided cases that the fact that the defendant held a diploma granted in another country did not entitle him to practise as an M.D. in England; but Mr. Smith said that the defendant had never described himself as other than he was, and pointed out that two previous prosecutions against him had failed. Mr. Lushington dismissed the summonses, saying that there was no evidence to show that the defendant had used this title with intent to deceive, and allowing the defence 3*l.* 3*s.* costs.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

NOT B.P. SWEET SPIRIT OF NITRE.

AT the Ruabon Petty Sessions, ten days ago, the first conviction since the new B.P. was published of selling spirit of nitre not of B.P. quality was obtained. William Roberts, Crane Shop, Cefn Mawr, was charged by Superintendent Edwd. Jones with selling, on April 4, 3 oz. of spirit of nitre (for which 9d. was paid) that the county analyst found to contain 25 per cent. of water above the quantity allowed by the British Pharmacopœia. Defendant said he bought the spirit of nitre from one of the largest and most respectable wholesale firms in Liverpool, and he had not the slightest knowledge that there was anything wrong with it. Defendant was fined 2s. 6d. and 18s. costs.

COUNTY COURT CASES.

COMMITTAL OF A CHEMIST.

IN the Westminster County Court, on Tuesday, the case of *Fisher v. Hart* came before Judge Lumley Smith as a judgment-summons, the plaintiff applying for the committal of the defendant, a chemist, formerly carrying on business at Duke Street, W. Plaintiff's representative said that since the judgment was obtained the defendant had sold his business, and was now living in very good style in a flat at Victoria Street, S.W., and was well able to pay. The debtor did not appear, and his Honour made an order for payment in a week, subject to committal for twelve days in default.

CLAIM FOR COMMISSION.

ON Tuesday, in the Westminster County Court, before Judge Lumley Smith, in the case of *Roberts v. Cook*, the plaintiff, a business-transfer agent, of Warwick Street, Pimlico, sued the defendant to enforce payment of a judgment-debt in respect of commission on the sale of a chemist's shop. The debtor did not appear, and his Honour made an order for payment in a month, subject to committal for twelve days in default.

McDOUGALL VINDICATED.

IN this journal, May 14 last, we reported a case tried at Kells County Sessions (Ireland), in which a farmer named Clarke sued a registered druggist named Cooney for 26l. for damages caused by his selling a poisonous substance when McDougall's sheep-dip was asked for. The plaintiff said he sent for the dip, and used it as an application for ringworm in a cow and bull, the result being that the cow died, and the bull was rendered useless. Professor Tichborne said he found 11.5 per cent. of arsenic in the paste supplied. The defendant said if McDougall's dip was asked for he should certainly have supplied it. The case was adjourned, and came on again at Navan Sessions, on Tuesday last, before Judge Curran. His Honour said at the last hearing he had come to the conclusion that the stuff supplied had been a mixture made up by Mr. Cooney himself. He was satisfied on the evidence that this was some cheap stuff that Mr. Cooney had got up himself, or that it was some cheaper stuff than McDougall's dip that he had procured. He was satisfied, on the evidence of Professor Tichborne, that what is commonly known as McDougall's sheep-dip would be innocuous when applied to animals in the way that it is applied; but that the stuff that Mr. Cooney sold, whatever he called it, was a most deadly compound to be used in this way for animals if it got near any place where the skin would be open. He, however, let the case stand over for Cooney to produce what evidence he could. No evidence being forthcoming to change his view, his Honour gave judgment for the plaintiff for 21l. damages and 4l. 4s. 3d. expenses. He added that he was satisfied that had the plaintiff got what he asked for he would not have had to try this case.

DAMAGES FROM A CHEMIST.

AT Sligo Quarter Sessions, on June 14, John Condon, Killery, sued John Finan, chemist and druggist, Sligo, for 20l. damages, alleging gross negligence and breach of warranty

on the part of defendant. On April 26 plaintiff purchased from Mr. Finan's shop what he believed to be 1½ lb. of Epsom salts, halfpennyworth of nitre, and one-pennyworth of cream of tartar. On the following day he divided them into three equal parts and administered two of these parts to two calves. Immediately after the cattle appeared to be suffering great pain. One died about an hour or two afterwards, and the other lingered about four or five hours. He sent to Sligo for Mr. Walsh, V.S., and told him what had happened. When the entrails were taken out of the cattle and laid on the grass they burned up grass where they lay. The value of the animals would be about 10l. Mr. Walsh, V.S., said he made a *post-mortem* examination of the carcasses, and formed the opinion that they died from an irritant poison. Mr. McCarthy, for the plaintiff, said he had sent the remaining third of the medicines to Sir Charles Cameron for analysis, and would submit the result of that analysis as evidence, but Mr. Fitzgerald, for defendant, objected. If the stomach of the animals had been sent for analysis he would not object, but in this case, where there was an opportunity of substituting one thing for another, he would certainly object to the analysis being submitted as evidence, and his Honour upheld the objection.

Mr. Finan said he was a registered chemist and druggist, and had been in business for over twenty years. He had made up the parcels himself, keeping each medicine in a separate drawer. There were several parcels in the drawer where plaintiff got this parcel from, and these were sold to parties round the country, but there was no complaint from anyone but the plaintiff. The plaintiff got 2 oz. of nitre, and in his (witness's) opinion ½ oz. would be a sufficient dose for a calf. If a person gave 1 oz. or 1½ oz. of nitre it would have the burning effect on the stomach described by Mr. Walsh.

Cross-examined, witness said he was not present at the time Condon purchased the medicine. His wife made the sale. Plaintiff bought phosphor-paste at the same time, but it could not have got mixed up with the other medicines.

Mrs. Finan was examined as to the sale, and after further evidence his Honour gave a decree for 10l., with 3l. costs.

BOVRIL (LIMITED) v. BOUILLON FLEET (LIMITED) AND OTHERS.

IN the Chancery Division Mr. Justice Byrne has continued the hearing of these actions.

At the conclusion of the evidence in support of the plaintiffs' case,

Mr. Astbury, Q.C., opened the case for the defendant tradesmen. He said the issues were two. First, was the article sold by defendants *per se* calculated to deceive people into the belief that Keros was Bovril? If it was, the second case was quite immaterial; if it was not, then there might be a case against shopkeepers whether they had fraudulently passed off Keros for Bovril with the intention to cheat. It had been established over and over again by the plaintiffs' evidence that the only way in which Keros could be passed off for Bovril was in a case where a person did not see the bottle at all, or where he did not look at it—in other words, the defendants' make-up must not be seen anywhere for the passing-off to occur. The plaintiffs had not ventured to cite a case in which it was either established by the evidence or was obvious that the defendants had not put sufficient distinctiveness on their article if people troubled to look at it. The plaintiffs had registered the design of their bottle, but the five years had elapsed, and now anyone was entitled to use the same design. The defendants would call the strongest evidence to prove that the point that the get-up of Keros was calculated to deceive was a mere myth, and the plaintiffs had not shown a single instance, nor suggested one, of a man asking for Bovril, and getting Keros. The passing-off case was hopeless, because the defendants had never called their article by a name which would enable the most feeble-minded person to think it was Bovril.

Mr. Justice Byrne asked how it was the defendants had got so much red and white on their labels.

Mr. Astbury said those little things were trivial; it was the word "Bovril," and not the capsule or shape of the bottle, that distinguished the article sold by the plaintiff.

The learned counsel also said that the amber colour of the bottle was chosen because it kept the sun off the meat-extract, and because it was cheap; and other makers of extract of meat used a similar coloured bottle.

Mr. Warmington, Q.C., for the chief defendants, said this was a case in which an article originally patented had become identified with the particular name of "Bovril." That was also the name of the plaintiff company, but he wished to impress on his Lordship that he was not dealing with the case of two articles which could be mistaken one for the other, unless the strenuous efforts which the plaintiffs had made for twelve years and more to identify their product under the name of Bovril were thrown aside. In this case the defendants had not sold anything under a name like that of Bovril, and it was impossible to suppose that any person could buy an article for Bovril which was not called by some name similar to Bovril. The plaintiffs complained, and he was not going to deny, that there was a similarity in the bottles, but, under the Registration Act of 1888, after the lapse of five years all the world were entitled to use a bottle of the same shape as that of the plaintiffs. He submitted the shape of the bottle was common to the trade, and all meat-extracts were put up in bottles with a capsule, and the neckband was also common to the trade. The learned counsel made some strong remarks as to the way in which the case had been got up by the plaintiffs, and the evidence of the little boys who had been called as having purchased Keros when new Bovril was ordered. The article which had been ordered from the grocers was either 10*d.* Bovril, new Bovril, or 10*d.* new Bovril; but the person ordering knew perfectly well there was no such article known to the shopkeeper. He submitted that no case had been made out, and, under the circumstances, said he should not call evidence.

Mr. Eve, Q.C., was submitting that the plaintiffs had made out their case, when the further hearing was adjourned.

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re CHARLES MONTAGUE, 8 Red Lion Square, Holborn, Patent-medicine Vendor.

AN application for an order of discharge was made to Mr. Registrar Brougham at the London Bankruptcy Court on June 17 by this bankrupt, who is described as Charles Montague, otherwise Napoleon Hirschfeld, otherwise Charles Ashley, patent-medicine vendor and specialist in cures for rheumatism.

Mr. Le Howell, who attended with the report of the Official Receiver, reported that the receiving-order was made in September, 1895, the accounts showing ranking liabilities 1,575*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*, and assets valued at 1,895*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* Proofs were made to the amount of 1,671*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, and the assets realised only 735*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* The bankrupt did not surrender under the proceedings, and a warrant for his arrest was issued by the Court, he having, about the date of the receiving-order, absconded to Germany. The warrant was executed in May, 1897, when the bankrupt was arrested at Bournemouth and brought to London in the custody of warders. He was released at the end of the day's examination, but was rearrested at the instance of the trustee, and, pleading guilty to offences under the Debtors Act, was sentenced to four months' imprisonment. His real name was Napoleon Hirschfeld. In 1888 he commenced business as a specialist in cures for rheumatism at Buxton, and practised there under the style of Charles Montague until 1891, when he came to London, and took premises at 8 Red Lion Square. He subsequently took other premises at 45 Great Russell Street and at 3 St. Michael's Grove, North Kensington, but relinquished those two places in 1894, and only traded at Red Lion Square until the receiving-order was made against his estate. An attempt was made in June, 1892, to convert the business into a limited company, to be styled "The Montague Syndicate (Limited)," but the negotiations were never completed, and the business was practically carried on by the bankrupt throughout as "Charles Montague." He attributed his failure to the action of the petitioning creditor, who, he alleged, pro-

ceeded on a judgment contrary to arrangements, with the result that the business was ruined. The offences reported by the Official Receiver were (1) insufficiency of assets to pay 10*s.* in the pound to the unsecured creditors; (2) failure to account satisfactorily for the deficiency of assets to meet the liabilities; (3) failure to afford proper assistance in relation to the bankruptcy and the realisation of the estate; and (4) that the bankrupt had been guilty of misdemeanour under the Debtors Act in respect of the concealment of two sums of 150*l.* and 300*l.* respectively, with intent to defraud his creditors.

The bankrupt addressed the Court in mitigation of the offence charged against him. He asserted that although he pleaded guilty at the trial to concealing the two sums of money he did not conceal them with any criminal intent. He did not surrender promptly under the bankruptcy proceedings because he received no notice of them, being away in Germany when they were instituted. He protested that he had already been heavily punished. His business formerly brought him in 50*l.* a week, whilst now he was utterly ruined in pocket, in character, and in reputation.

The learned Registrar reviewed the case at some length. He said the report presented by the Official Receiver charged some very serious allegations. Under the Bankruptcy Act the Court was bound to refuse an order of discharge where a debtor had committed offences against the Debtors Act, unless for especial reasons the Court otherwise determined. In the present case there were no especial reasons, but on the contrary there were many matters which were of a most unsatisfactory character. It was therefore impossible for him to grant the order asked for.

Discharge refused accordingly.

Re WALTER BEAUMONT, Pellon Lane, Halifax, Chemist.

THE public examination of this bankrupt took place at the Halifax Bankruptcy Court on June 14. His statement of affairs showed liabilities 316*l.*, against assets 60*l.*, or a deficiency of 256*l.* He stated that he took over the business from his father twelve years ago. Afterwards, for the six years that the latter lived, he allowed him 15*s.* per week. The stock, at the time he took it over, would be worth about 200*l.* He had had a succession of executions. When he filed his petition bailiffs were in for a debt of 14*l.*, for 15*l.* due for rent, and for the borough rates. The cause of his insolvency was insufficient business, insufficient capital, and law-costs. He had attended properly to his business. The Deputy Official Receiver (Mr. Buckley): If anyone had come in, and wanted the ordinary consolation of a chemist, could you have attended to him? The Registrar: What is the ordinary consolation of a chemist? Mr. Buckley: Well, twopennyworth of something, I suppose. Debtor stated that he was constantly at the shop. He first became aware of his insolvency two years ago, and since then he had been getting worse. His present position, however, was not worse than it was four years ago. The examination was allowed to be closed, the Deputy Official Receiver stating, however, that it was a very unsatisfactory case.

Re FREDERICK J. WIMBLE, Colonial Broker and Dealer, Dunster House, Mincing Lane, E.C.

THIS case came before Mr. Registrar Linklater last Tuesday at the London Bankruptcy Court, it being in the list of the day's public examinations. The receiving-order was made in May on the petition of a creditor. The debtor only commenced business in January, 1897, and to make a start he borrowed 450*l.* agreeing to pay 40 per cent. interest on a portion of the amount. For twenty-two years prior to starting on his own account the debtor assisted his brother, a colonial broker, receiving a commission on purchases and sales effected by him. His own business paid during the first six months, but during the latter half of 1897 prices declined, and since the trouble between Spain and America they dropped still more, with the result that the debtor has lost between 3,000*l.* and 4,000*l.* His liabilities, which are roughly estimated at 3,000*l.*, are chiefly in respect of differences on contracts.

Hearing was adjourned for a fortnight.

Deeds of Arrangement.

Baker, Benjamin Howard, trading as "Baker & Co.," 41 Upper Frederick Street, Liverpool, and residing at 43 Marlborough Road, Tue Brook, near Liverpool, wholesale drysalter. Trustee, John C. Newton, 46 Marlborough Road, Tue Brook, near Liverpool, commission-agent. Dated, June 11; filed, June 16. Liabilities unsecured, 477*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*; estimated net assets, 500*l.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Baskerville Printing Company, Liverpool	16	0	0
Bateson Brothers, Liverpool	28	0	0
Blake & McKenzie, Liverpool	14	0	0
Calvert Brothers, Liverpool	76	0	0
Clay, Dod & Co., Liverpool	114	0	0
Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool	10	0	0
Kerfoot & Co., Ashton-under-Lyne	11	0	0
Matthews & Wilson, London	10	0	0
Samuel, W. H., & Co., Liverpool	14	0	0
Tripp, T. M., & Co., Liverpool	41	0	0

MacFadyen, Hugh Wylie, trading as "Hugh Wylie," 33 and 37 Penny Street, Blackburn, herbalist. Trustee, Thomas Waterworth, 68 Victoria Street, Blackburn, chartered accountant. Dated, June 17; filed, June 18. Liabilities unsecured, 204*l.* 18*s.*; estimated net assets, 150*l.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Blain, D., Blackburn	19	0	0
Crabtree, James, Blackburn	20	0	0
Smith, A., Manchester	33	0	0
Taylor, J., Haslingden	52	0	0

Gazette.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Schramm, K. R., and Volz, R. J., under the style of K. R. Schramm & Co., Great Castle Street, Regent's Circus, W., and Belmont Street, Chalk Farm Road, N.W., surgical-instrument makers.

Stobbs, A. L., Wilson, W. A., and Pollard, J. W., under the style of Stobbs, Wilson & Pollard, Billiter Buildings, Billiter Street, E.C., chemical and colour merchants.

Wallis, G., and Cory, C. G., Cambridge or elsewhere, surgeons.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1883 AND 1890.

ADJUDICATIONS.

Burton, Ephraim (late carrying on business as the Sanitants Manufacturing Company), late High Holborn, W.C., and Herne Hill Road, Loughborough Junction, S.E.

Nash, Harry George Albert (trading as the Star Mineral-water Company), Newick Road, Clapton, N.E., and High Street, Shadwell, E., mineral-water manufacturer.

Roe, Charles Arthur (also trading as Michael Royals), Halifax, mineral-water manufacturer.

ORDER MADE ON APPLICATION FOR DISCHARGE.

Flood, John, King's Road, Chelsea, S.W., surgeon—discharge suspended for two years and six months, ending November 26, 1900.

Westminster Wisdom.

LIVING ICE-CREAM.

Sir Herbert Maxwell is to ask the President of the Local Government Board as to the danger of ice-creams sold by Italians in the streets. Dr. Klein has corroborated everybody else who has bacteriologically examined these compounds by stating that they swarm with the micro-organisms peculiar to sewage and putrescence. Sir Herbert wants to know whether the provisions of the Public Health Acts and the Food and Drugs Acts are inefficient to control or prohibit the sale of poisonous compounds such as these ices.

VACCINATION BILL

There were ten pages of amendments to the Vaccination Bill on the "orders" which were presented to the members

on Tuesday. The medical members were amongst the chief amenders. Sir Walter Foster, M.P., was the first of them, and Sir William Priestley, M.D., the member for Edinburgh and St. Andrews Universities, ran him neck and neck. Their amendments were all expressive of the medical view of vaccination, but there were plenty on the other side; and the way that Mr. Channing, Mr. Hazell, and others endeavoured to safeguard the interests of those who had to submit to vaccination was delightful. One amendment, *e.g.*, proposed that the local authorities should pay for medical attendance in illnesses supervening upon vaccination; and Mr. Channing proposed a clause to give compensation for death or injury caused by vaccination. The following are the fees which Sir Walter Foster proposes to legislate:—

	s.	d.
For every vaccination at the medical practitioner's residence at a place within one mile thereof ..	1	6
Within two miles	3	0
Within three miles	4	0
Exceeding three miles... ..	5	0

THE PETROLEUM REPORT.

The Petroleum Committee, instead of considering their report like men of business, are wrangling over what they call the premature disclosure of their rival reports. No possible harm could have been done if they had discussed these in public, unless it might be to individual members of the Committee. The majority, it is stated, are in favour of a report which the chairman, Mr. Jesse Collings, has drafted, which practically refuses to yield to the agitation to raise the flash-point of the oil so as to bring under the regulations of the Petroleum Act a large part of the petroleum as now sold. Mr. Collings's party, however, advocate the adoption of regulations concerning the construction of lamps. No one proposes to interfere with the exemption which allows chemists or other dealers to keep 3 gals. of benzine in small bottles. The report is not yet agreed to, and may be modified.

PHARMACY IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Poisonous Substances Bill is set down for second reading in the House of Lords for this day, Friday, June 24. No date for the second reading of the Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill has been fixed.

Personalities.

In the recently-published honours list appears the name of Mr. Frank J. Turner, of Downing College, Cambridge, son of Mr. Turner, head dispenser at the Exeter Dispensary.

WE give the portrait of Mr. Stanley de Jersey Lenfestey, son of Mr. W. Gifford Lenfestey, of the Central Pharmacy,



Piccadilly Circus, W., whose success as ninth wrangler was announced last week (page 981).

MR. FRANK WILLIAM STEDMAN, chemist and druggist, Ashford, gained the second prize and was twice highly commended at an Art, Industrial, and Loan Exhibition, which is being held in the town during the present week for framed photographs (original).

"SANITAS" EMBROCATION

In bottles to retail at

8d., 1/-, and 2/6.

"SANITAS" AND OTHER DISINFECTANTS

SULPHUR FUMIGATING CANDLES (Patent)
6d., 9d., and 1/- each.

PRESERVED PEROXIDE OF HYDROGEN
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BOURNE SODA, SELTZER,
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BOURNE,
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West End Agents, **WHEATLEY & SONS**, 24 South Andley Street, W.
City Agents, **RAE & CO.**, 6 Railway Place, Fenchurch Street, E.C.
And of all Chemists, Wine Merchants, Hotels, &c.

SPECIAL SUMMER OFFER.

**HORA'S B.P.
SEIDLITZ
POWDERS.**

Howards' Seidlitz. English Tartaric Acid.

Each powder accurately weighed. Wrapped in high-class style.

6-gross lots, 4/- per gross.

Smaller quantities, 4/3 per gross.

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COCA WINE.

The "Galen" Coca Wine gives universal satisfaction as a
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ELEVEN INJUNCTIONS

With damages and costs, have been
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HOWARDS' SEIDLITZ, ENGLISH ACID.
GUARANTEED B.P. WEIGHTS.

PRICE:—For single gross, 4/6 per gross. For 3 gross,
4/3 per gross. For 6 gross, 4/- per gross.

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COCA-TONIC CHAMPAGNE

Prepared and Bottled by the Growers at Bouzy-Reims, from the finest Natural
Champagne, and the leaves of the Erythroxylon Coca, and not from Cocaine.
We supply "Coca-Tonic" Champagne with Chemists' own
name on the Labels.

For prices and particulars, apply to the Sole Proprietors—
HERTZ & COLLINGWOOD, 38 Leadenhall Street, LONDON, E.C.

The principle of

Fletchers' Concentrated Liquors

Is now recognised in the

BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA, 1898.

THE GOVERNMENT POISONS BILL.

It is not impossible that the Government Bill for the Regu-
lation of the Sale of Poisonous Substances may have passed
its second reading in the House of Lords before the end of
this week. We can hardly suppose it is the intention of the
Government to pass it finally this Session; but they can do

this, probably, if they are so minded. A certain number of dissentients could no doubt be secured in either House, but these could do but little in the way of effective opposition to a measure which the Government, with their massive power, could bring to bear on the Bill. We said last week that it was the duty of chemists to contend strenuously against this proposal, which strikes at the root of the principle of the Pharmacy Act. But it cannot be ignored that there is a certain degree of inconsistency in the course we advocate, and a certain degree of plausibility in the Privy Council's proposals. We have for years pressed with all our energy for some restriction on the sale of carbolic acid. We have watched the development of its popularity as a means of suicide, and its risks to the public from accident. And we have again and again denounced the almost criminal apathy of the Privy Council in regard to it. Now we are offered some degree of protection against the dangers which have grown so portentous. It is not, it may be said, just what we have demanded, but is it not better than nothing? We cannot, say the Whitehall authorities, grant to chemists a monopoly in the sale of such an article, still less can we consent to give them a monopoly in substances such as sulphuric, nitric, and hydrochloric acids, used as these are to such an enormous extent in the arts and manufactures. We will do what we can for the protection of the public, but it is no concern of ours to provide business for pharmacists.

The sophistry of this argument is easily apparent to the few to whom the history and principles of the Pharmacy Act are familiar, and we are not without hope that it will be exposed by some of the more intelligent of the members of Parliament. To admit it is virtually to admit that the Pharmacy Act is a cumbrous and superfluous piece of legislation, and this is certainly not the opinion of those most capable of appreciating its effects. To say that oxalic acid and syrup of poppies are to be hedged round with precautions, and sold only by persons specially trained to understand them, while carbolic acid and oil of vitriol may still be distributed like milk, is to reduce the legislation which has served the country well for thirty years to an absurdity; and that is what the Government Bill is calculated to do.

But chemists must be prepared with a definite and an intelligent policy in regard to this project; it must be something else than mere dogged resistance. We have a strong case, but it is of no use to put our own interests above those of the public. To argue that we have a claim on the nation to anything like a monopoly because we have been good enough to go through a course of training and certain examinations is to misapprehend the spirit of the Pharmacy Act, which, it cannot be too clearly recognised, is a provision made not for chemists' interests, but by the nation for its own protection. If the question were put to us whether we would prefer to see this Bill passed or nothing done, we would frankly vote for the Bill. The necessity of stopping the reckless sale of such dangerous substances as those scheduled in it is so paramount that, even at the risk of depreciating the existing law, we would prefer to see something like protection provided. But it is of the highest importance that the advice of pharmacists should be taken in such a matter as this, and from the point of view of the public it is certain they can suggest a much more excellent method than that which has been devised by the Lords of the Privy Council.

It will, perhaps, have to be admitted that there are considerable difficulties in the way of restricting the sale of the mineral acids to chemists. The higher professional position which pharmacy has acquired in the last quarter of a century itself militates against the demand which would otherwise

be reasonable. It is, however, desirable that spirits of salts should not continue to be sold in unlabelled ginger-beer bottles, or oil of vitriol in jugs. A statutory label might be devised for these substances which would not indicate that they are less dangerous than a cough-mixture, and which would caution purchasers against carelessness in their use. But the same difficulty does not occur with carbolic acid. There is no reason in the world why that should not be properly scheduled under the Pharmacy Act, and we hope both of our Pharmaceutical Societies, supported by the medical corporations and by coroners all over the country will insist on such a precaution. The absurdity of relaxing in any degree the restrictions on "substances sold for the purpose of poisoning insects or vermin" is too obvious to need emphasis. A firm but reasonable attitude on the part of those who can officially represent us is essential now, and with proper presentation of our case the support of a large majority of our legislators may be confidently reckoned on.

FINANCE AND QUININE.

THE *Financial Times* has turned its attention to quinine as a speculative medium, and appears to be shocked that the price should not have gone up in consequence of the Spanish-American war. Then our contemporary proceeds to give the reasons why the price has not advanced in the following sentences:—

The cause is that the quotation of the raw material, cinchona-bark, is being artificially kept down by a combination of quinine-manufacturers, mostly German. This combination was formed at the end of last December, and consisted of nine members, although it has now dwindled to five. The members bound themselves not to pay more than a certain price for the bark (the figure has not transpired), the supposed object being to put pressure on the Dutch and to secure for themselves a number of the plantations in Java, which is now planted from end to end with cinchona, and which produces 250,000 kilos. of quinine in the bark out of the world's total output of 300,000 kilos. The large merchants in Amsterdam are still holding off the market in order to defeat this combination, but the smaller planters have been forced to sell. The combination has taken what came at low prices, and has supplied the trade by forward sales, often of six months' term, also at a low level. While this was being done the Spanish war was not expected to come along, and now the combination is in a bit of a fix unless it can manage to continue the artificial depression of the price.

The *Financial Times* has a good deal to say about Amsterdam unit-prices which may be interesting to Stock Exchange people but is old news to our readers, and adds:—

It would not be unnatural if the drug were taken in hand by a speculative syndicate which would outbid the combination and buy up the supply of the bark. The present manufacturers' price of about 1s. per oz. is really only nominal, and applies merely to the purchase of a few hundred ounces by druggists, so that purchasing on any fair-sized scale would probably cause a marked impression. There is undoubtedly room for a substantial rise, and at the present ridiculously low price of cinchona there would seem remarkably little risk in the experiment, especially seeing that there is in the Pharmacopœia no substitute for quinine.

Although it is obvious that our contemporary has written without complete knowledge of the subject, it has hit upon the weak spot of cinchona and quinine combinations. The idea of cornering bark does not appear to have occurred to speculators since the disasters which followed such operations in the days of natural bark, when huge stocks were warehoused, and depreciated in value from shillings to pence as Ceylon and Java poured cheaper cultivated bark into Europe. There is no doubt that much money was made by speculators in the early days of that period, just as there would be if speculative purchasers of bark were to outbid quinine-manufacturers now; but financiers who think of embarking upon this sea of speculation had better reckon well ahead. It will take some time and a lot of money to

fight the quinine-makers, who are believed to have working stocks of bark which will keep them going for at least a year, and speculators must face the possibility of having to buy every pound of bark that comes into the market; in short, speculation in bark to be successful must be done by men with unlimited capital and expert knowledge of the bark business. They must be clever enough to be sure of buying bark in all the world's centres; they must prevent secret sales of Java bark, and stop increased output elsewhere; but if they were not clever enough to do all this, they—or, indeed, any exceptional operations in bark—would send up values considerably, and would enhance the price of quinine; but according to our experience of Javan mutability permanently high-priced bark and quinine are out of the question.

A MISSING LINK FOUND.

WHEN Professor Ramsay first isolated helium from the atmosphere and determined its atomic weight, he found that its factors were anomalous, and, with the assistance of Professor Collie, made a series of diffusion experiments in order to isolate from the gas a probable second element, with atomic weight of 11, which is wanted to fill up the gap in the periodic table. The experiments did not yield anything of importance except the lame, even infantile, conclusion that helium consists of two sets of molecules, one set smaller than the other. That conjecture was set aside early this year, and since then, in association with Mr. Morris Travers, the search for the missing link between helium and argon has been continued by Professor Ramsay. The discovery of krypton is one result of this new work, and at the Royal Society's meeting last week Professor Ramsay announced that he had got the missing link—a gas with an atomic weight not far from 11, which he calls "neon." This he has accomplished by low-temperature experiments. Argon formed the starting-point of the investigation; its collection took many months, which is not surprising when one considers that 99 per cent. of atmospheric air consists of nitrogen and oxygen, the remainder being chiefly argon, mixed, as is now known, with krypton and at least two other elementary gases. Working with Hampson's apparatus, he began to liquefy argon, and observed that the liquefaction was not complete; on examining the residual gas it was found to differ from argon. The greater part of 13 litres of gaseous argon having been liquefied, it was subjected to the process of slow fractional distillation, as was done in the case of krypton. The main object was to collect the first and last portions of the distillate. This was done, and the first portion, on being spectroscopically examined, proved to consist largely of an unknown gas having quite a new spectrum. The lines are excessively brilliant and clear-cut in outline, those especially noticeable being exceptionally bright lines in the red, some in the yellow, and others, less distinct, in the blue part of the spectrum. The yellow line is as intense as, but not identical with, those of sodium, helium, and krypton. On sparking the gas it is seen to emit a magnificent crimson light, merging into heliotrope, which is far more beautiful than that given by any other known gas under similar conditions. Experiments in regard to the density of the gas led at first to the figure 17.2, but by purification this was reduced to 14.67, and finally to 13, which is still too high, and may very possibly be lowered by two more units on subjecting it to further purification. It is probable that this gas has never yet been liquefied, even at the temperature of liquid air boiling *in vacuo*. In all probability this is the gas which defies liquefaction when gaseous argon is subjected to this process. These

and other tests show, however, that a new gas was being dealt with, and the investigators feel confident that it is a new element, and have given it the name "neon." Should the density of neon be between 10 and 11, it will fill the blank between argon and helium. It was this gas for which Professor Ramsay was hunting during the earlier part of last year, and he and Mr. Travers are convinced that a further lowering will be made as they continue their experiments. Turning their attention to the solid which separated during liquefaction, and which was also obtained as a solid in quantity by evaporating unfiltered liquefied argon, the investigators converted it into gas and found its spectrum to be complex, but different from that of argon, and the behaviour of the gas at low temperatures was different, though its density was practically identical with that of argon. It was proved to consist of a single element. They propose to name it "meta-argon," and they suggest that it occupies the same position in regard to argon that nickel does to cobalt. This meta-argon is the least volatile portion of the impure argon, since it remains when the krypton, argon, and last remaining traces of nitrogen have boiled away. It is a white crystalline substance, having a melting-point higher than -180° C. It will be remembered that argon boils at -187° C., or about seven degrees below the melting-point of meta-argon. On examining the spectrum of gaseous meta-argon it was found to differ markedly from those of helium and krypton, owing to the presence of a number of series of small lines, which gave the appearance known as a banded spectrum, with the finest lines in the blue end. This gas appears to have the same atomic weight as argon—*i.e.*, about 40—its density being determined as (approx.) 19.8. Here for the present the information in regard to the new discoveries stops, but the research is being pursued with avidity; and we are pleased to note that there is indication that the regrettable rivalry between individual chemists, as well as sections thereof, is likely to be minimised, inasmuch as when Professor Ramsay communicated a preliminary note of his research to the Royal Society last week, there was a notable absence of that petty jealousy which has been so much in evidence of late. Sir William Crookes was the first to offer his congratulations to Professor Ramsay and Mr. Travers. This he did in the mildest and most guarded manner possible. Somebody, he was not quite sure whether it was himself or another, had, he thought, suggested that argon was a mixture, because it showed a double spectrum. But, seeing that at the time Sir William Crookes, as many of those present were aware, held the contrary opinion, it must have been somebody else. Sir Norman Lockyer then signified his appreciation of the work in suitable terms. Lord Lister thereupon gave Dr. Armstrong an opportunity of making himself agreeable, but without success. Finally Professor Dewar got up, and in his usual style congratulated the authors in the warmest terms on their achievement. In other circles a speech like this would have been warmly applauded as "sportsmanlike" in the extreme. Unfeigned praise from a rival is rarely met with, and, when it is given, deserves to be recorded. Professor Dewar at the same time hinted that he himself had not followed up the investigation of liquid air on the same lines as the authors because he had had more important work to do. Professor Ramsay, in his reply, stated that the double spectrum of argon was, in his opinion, not due to neon, or krypton, or any other gas, but was peculiar to argon itself.

MUNYON AND THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

OUR comments on the proceedings of the Medical Council at its last session ruffled some of those medical scribes who

with the fear of the general practitioner before their eyes, stir the flame of his policy of grab, and adopt his antiquated views of law and equity. The *Medical Press* is amusingly abusive. Our modest remark that hitherto we thought the Medical Council had exercised its penal powers without any undue professional bias is set down as "condescension which savours of impertinence." But we pointed out that the rampant advocates of vigorous action under the Medical Acts against all and sundry commercial rivals were forcing themselves on the Judgment Seat, and were demanding more powers and more liberal exercise of such powers as the Council has. Consequently we ventured to say it was necessary to watch the judgments of the Council more closely than ever. To this rather intelligent observation the Editor of the *Medical Press*, with a wit worthy of a costermonger, replies: "We gather that the Editor proposes to self-constitute himself the guardian of professional justice. This bluster in a trade-journal is ridiculous," and so on. The General Medical Council is a public body, constituted by statute; and the Editor of the *Medical Press* only shows that he is as yet ignorant of its true character when he assumes that its proceedings are of medical concern only. The *Medical Times* is more sober. This is, we believe, the official organ of the "medical reformers"—otherwise the grabbists—and one of its proprietors, or at least one of its contributors, is a member of the General Medical Council. It pays us the compliment of quoting our article in full, and then adds:—

There are several statements in the above article which are open to criticism. The Medical Council has not "pronounced association with a proprietary-medicine concern as infamous conduct." It has decided that it is infamous conduct to be connected with remedies such as Professor Munyon's (or the "Munyon firm," as THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST calls him) in the way in which Mr. Hart was connected therewith. The services of men with competent medical knowledge are often required by firms, says THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. Quite so, and the Medical Council would never think of objecting to this. But if a man does wrong, it is not sufficient excuse that his employer told him to do so. Mr. Hart assisted in carrying on a system of dealing with patients which he could not himself defend. He took the letters in which patients detailed their symptoms, and, having read them, endorsed them with the name of the organ he thought affected, and one of the various cures was forwarded accordingly. Mr. Hart could not tell the Council that he believed this a proper way of diagnosing and treating disease. He knew quite well it was not; and so does THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. And if humbugging sick people with quack rubbish is not infamous conduct in a professional respect, it is hard to know what is. The General Medical Council adopted the only course it could take under the circumstances.

Surely this admits all we said. The writer says the Medical Council has not pronounced association with a proprietary-medicine concern as infamous conduct, but it has decided that it is infamous conduct to be connected with remedies such as Professor Munyon's. What we want to know is whether the Council decided that there was something specially discreditable about Munyon's medicines on evidence or on prejudice? Is Mr. George Brown, an elected member of the General Medical Council, responsible for the statement that a medical man has been struck off the register not on the general ground of association with a proprietary medicine—that would have been an intelligible, but, perhaps, an embarrassing principle—but because of association with a specifically named one? Mr. Brown was probably present in the secret committee when the case referred to was considered; will he inform us whether one scrap of evidence in reference to Munyon's medicine was submitted? If there was such evidence it ought to have been made public; if there was not, the Council has shown that it has failed to appreciate its duty as a judicial body. If the evidence was simply to the effect that the medicines were homœopathic, or for that matter, Munyonic, the Council was defying the statutory provision that it should not strike anyone off the register on account of a difference of opinion in regard to

any theory of medicine; if the Council judged without any specific evidence, the prejudice thus displayed would amount, we should think, to legal malice, and would then be liable to review by an authorised tribunal.

OUR INDEX.

Between pages 1030 and 1031 of this issue is a complete index with title-page of the volume which is completed with this issue. We would advise all subscribers to glance through these pages—*e.g.*, through the last column of page viii and the first of page ix, or through the letter B. The glance will remind them of many things which have happened, will point to information which may be wanted now or any day, and will show what splendid value we give subscribers for their money—two volumes of nearly 1,100 pages each and a DIARY for 10s.! Those whose subscriptions expire now should renew promptly, and those who do not subscribe, but happen to read this in their friend's copy, should begin their subscription with the next number, which will be the first of a new volume.

A RAMBLER RECIPE.

The *Rambler* recently gave its readers the following sapient "guard against infection":—

It is just possible that some of you when on long cycling tours may occasionally be forced to stay in rough, unfamiliar quarters, where you may feel anxious as to the healthiness of your rooms. A very safe way to guard against possible infection is to have burned in the room before sleeping in it an ounce or so of corrosive sublimate. This will effectually kill all germs. The room should be thoroughly aired afterwards, as *mercurial fumes may linger*.

The italics are ours. As Mr. Harmsworth places his trust in young men, we hope he tries some of their schemes occasionally.

COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

An interesting account is given in a consular report of an important commercial school in Genoa. On the completion of a course of three years' instruction a final examination has to be passed, which entitles candidates to a diploma or commercial degree. The "banco modello," or the model office, is an interesting feature of the school. Students in this department represent different firms in various parts of the world. They go through all the most minute operations of trading with each other, including transit of goods by sea and by land. The results up to the present have been excellent, and successful graduates find immediate employment at high salaries. The system appears to be the same as that followed in the United States with remarkable success.

SOLUTION OF HAMAMELIS.

The revisers of the British Pharmacopœia are not likely to hear the end of their iniquities in this century. We have discovered another—*viz.*, that importers of extract of witch-hazel are groaning deeply and muttering loudly because the new B.P. prohibits the importation of the extract "without alcohol." "If this is so," we hear by letter, "there are some of us who will have to 'club' the B.P. people." It seems that there is in London at present, in first hands, something like 5,000 gals. of the extract, some of it being non-alcoholic, and the holders fear that they may not get rid of it. This is an interesting point. The Pharmacopœia says nothing about prohibiting importation of non-alcoholic witch-hazel extract. What it does say is that solution of hamamelis is to be made by mixing 50 parts of hamamelis-leaves with 100 parts of water and 10 parts of alcohol, and, after macerating for twenty-four hours, distilling one-half. We ventured to suggest, when the Pharmacopœia was published, that the revisers were not so well posted as they might be, because, as a matter of fact, leaves and twigs of witch-hazel are used, and no alcohol is put into the still (see "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 488). The novel point to us is that the pure aqueous distillate is imported into this country. We

should think, however, that it contains some alcohol, and there is plenty imported in bond—indeed, eighty odd barrels have been offered in public sale this week which contains 25 per cent of proof spirit; that is approximately the B.P. quantity. It is understood that the aqueous stuff should have alcohol added to it immediately on arrival, but that is exactly what the importer has difficulty in doing, but the wholesale buyer can do it before he distributes to the retailer. It is curious that extract of witch-hazel should keep so well without alcohol, and the fact lends colour to the suggestion of Mr. A. Gunn that formaldehyde is one of its constituents.

PEPPERMINT OIL FROM A SEWAGE-FARM.

Our news columns last week contained the curious announcement that the Sutton Urban District Council, having a quantity of peppermint oil to dispose of, had instructed their Surveyor to sell it for the best price he could get. On seeing the item in print we wondered how the Sutton Council became possessed of the oil in question. We supposed they had bought a lot for testing drains, and were now wanting to realise a little profit on it. But if that were the case we thought it needed explanation that they should buy Mitcham oil for such work. So we charged them with being in possession of a certain drug—to wit, English oil of peppermint—and invited them to give any explanation in their power. We have to admit that the Sutton Urban District Council leave this Court without a stain on their character. The Surveyor (Mr. C. Chambers Smith) writes as follows:—

It may probably be interesting to your readers to know that the Council cultivate the peppermint plant on their sewage-farm, and obtain very satisfactory crops. About $4\frac{1}{4}$ acres are under peppermint during the present season. The yield of oil from $2\frac{3}{4}$ acres under cultivation last year was $61\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. The price realised from the oil just sold is 24s. 3d. per lb., the quality being considered excellent, and is of the kind known in the trade as Mitcham oil.

We publish this explanation with much pleasure, and compliment the Sutton Council and their Surveyor on their evident business smartness, which, we hope, will run to an advertisement in our pages.

MORE ABOUT KAURI.

The report of the Kauri Gum Commission, which we briefly referred to last week, states that the gum-fields north of Auckland City comprise 724,000 acres, and those south of Auckland 90,000 acres, about half of which belongs to the Crown. For digging gum on Crown lands a fee of 5s. has been charged in years past, but its collection was abandoned by the county councils as not worth the expense incurred in making it. After enumerating the various gums produced, and their market value, the report states that "Kauri gum commands a supremacy in the market, but the ever-increasing demand is, without doubt, exhausting the known sources of supply." They again urge an export-duty, and state that if 3d. per ton duty had been exacted in the past, 110,997l. would have accrued to the revenue. The Commissioners pretend that it is the practice of London merchants to remove the best samples in packages, destroying marks or brands for the purpose of concealing the names of exporters, and putting up good lots with inferior lots to lower the sale-price; and the suggestion is made that officers should be appointed to grade the gum and collect the export-duty. The Commissioners conclude that the only means of preventing ruinous fluctuations in the price of gum is to make the industry a Government monopoly.

HOSPITAL SURGEON (to anxious mother): "I think it right to tell you that your son will be compelled to have one leg taken off." Anxious Mother: "Dear, dear, and what am I to do with his other boot?"

South African Tariffs.

NATAL has joined the Customs Union, which now consists of Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Natal, Basutoland, and Rhodesia. The new tariff has not yet been passed, but the Customs are enforcing it as far as advances are concerned. The following are the changes which most interest the drug-trade:—

CLASS 1.—SPECIAL RATES.

	Formerly	Proposed
	£	s. d.
Acetic acid (per Imp. gal.)	free	0 3 0
Cocoa and chocolate, unsweetened (per lb.)	n.s.	0 0 1
Cocoa and milk, chocolate and milk, or coffee and milk (per lb.)	n.s.	0 0 1
Condensed, desiccated, or preserved milk or cream (per 100 lbs.)... ..	free	0 4 2
Confectionery, including sweetened cocoa or chocolate, honey, jams, jellies, preserves, sweetmeats, candied or preserved ginger or chow-chow, and all other kinds compounded, made, or preserved with sugar, but not including purely medicinal preparations properly classed as apothecary ware (per 100 lbs.)	16s. 8d.	0 18 9
Ginger, green and dry (per lb.)	free	0 0 2
Oils, not essential, perfumed or fish, in vessels of not less than 1 Imperial quart (per Imp. gal.)	6d.	0 0 3
Oils, essential or perfumed (per 100l.)	—	20 0 0
Oils, fish oil (per Imp. gal.)	—	0 1 0
Soap, not including toilet-soaps, powders, and extracts (per 100 lbs.)... ..	free	0 4 2
Spices (per lb.)... ..	free	0 0 2
Spirits, perfumed (per Imp. gal.)	9s.	1 0 0
Spirits, liqueurs and cordials exceeding 2 per cent. of proof spirit, and methylated spirits (per Imp. gal.)	9s.	0 15 0
Spirits, other sorts, exceeding 2 per cent., but not exceeding the strength of proof by Sykes' hydrometer, and so on in proportion for any greater strength (per Imp. gal.)	9s.	0 15 0
Tamarinds (per lb.)	free	0 0 1
Turmeric (per lb.)	free	0 0 2
Vinegar, of standard strength, fit for immediate use as such (i.e., requiring no more than 40 gr. of bicarbonate of potash to neutralise 1 oz. Troy), in bottles or other vessels of the capacity of not more than 1 Imperial quart (per Imp. gal.)	free	0 1 0

CLASS 2.—FREE.

The following articles shall be exempted from payment of Customs duties on importation:—

Bottles and jars of common glass or earthenware, empty or imported full of any article liable to a rated duty, and bottles empty commonly used for aerated waters; boxes, empty, cardboard or wooden, put together or in pieces or shooks, for packing; corks and bungs; glue; potash and soda, carbonate, bicarbonate, caustic, crystals, and silicate; resin and carbonate of ammonia; sheep-dip, sheep-dipping powders, material suitable only for dip, and dipping-tanks; sulphur-substances for destroying pests or diseases in stock, plants or trees, and disinfectants.

CLASS 3.—GENERAL, "AD VALOREM" $7\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT.

All goods, wares, or merchandise, not elsewhere charged with duty, and not enumerated in the free list, and not prohibited to be imported into the Union, shall be liable to a duty of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. *ad valorem*.

CLASS 4. SPECIAL, "AD VALOREM" 20 PER CENT.

The following articles shall be liable to a duty of 20 per cent. *ad valorem*:—Extracts and essences of all kinds used as food, flavouring, or perfumery, including saccharine; medicinal preparations, not being drugs for dispensing-purposes; perfumery, cosmetics, dyes, powders, and soaps, or other preparations for toilet-use, and scap powders and extracts; scup, concentrated or desiccated.

We shall notify any changes which may be made upon the above.

The Cape Government has intimated the following new Customs duties for Cape Colony :—

ARTICLES INCREASED IN DUTY.

	£	s.	d.
Oils—anthracite, brick, coal or gas tar, cocoanut, cotton-seed, hemp seed, palm, shale, and any other kinds—crude or unrefined, for making anti-friction grease, candles, soap, &c., not including fish oils (per Imp. gal.)	0	0	3
Oils in vessels of less than 1 Imp. qt., not being essential, perfumed, or fish oils (per 100 l.)	7	10	0
Glucose (per 100 lbs.)	0	3	6
Tea (per lb.)	0	0	6
Tamarinds (per lb.)	0	0	2
Medicinal preparations (not being drugs) for dispensing—purposes (not patent and proprietary chemicals, drugs, or medicines, and medicated foods) (per 100 l.)	20	0	0
Dyes (per 100 l.)	20	0	0

DECREASES.

Medicinal preparations, not being drugs for dispensing—purposes, are now liable to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., instead of 9 per cent., and 20 per cent. *ad valorem* duty.

At the Royal Agricultural Show.

THE animal drug and allied trades were well represented at the Royal Agricultural Society's Show, which has been open all this week at Four Oaks, Birmingham. There was nothing particularly new, but most of the druggists' firms familiar to the habitual visitors were to be found grouped in one part of the field, immediately to the left of the entrance.

Day & Sons, Crewe, were there with their "Huskolein" black and red drinks, "medicine-chests," and medicines in great variety.

B. C. Tipper & Sons, Birmingham, had an imposing stand of their medicated powders for cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, and poultry; also samples of their sheep-dip, a cod-liver-oil condiment for young and debilitated stock, and no end of spices.

Next to them was the stand of the "Stud" Horse and Cattle Medicine Company, Manchester, with "Horseine" as one of their chief medicines. Latter-day horses, it appears, are subject to "nerves"—at least, this medicine is offered as a nerve-tonic.

Day, Son & Hewett, London, made special features of "The Trenoline," an anthelmintic and lamb-tonic, and "Kossolian blood-salt," for disorders of the blood.

Tomlinson & Hayward, Lincoln, exhibited samples of all their sheep-dips; of their "Eureka" weed-killer, sold either as a powder or liquid; together with oils, embrocations, and powders for veterinary-purposes. Stephen Willson, Peterborough, showed his Canadian pig-powders; and Hope & Sons, London and Leicester, their "Restorine" remedies.

Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds Company showed "Jeyes' Fluid" in its varied applications; also their dog-soap, automatic disinfectant-distributor and spray-diffuser.

Thos. Pettifer & Co., Banbury, among various cattle-medicines made a speciality of Pettifer's herbal, a tonic mixture for cases of scour in lambs, cattle, and calves.

Fletcher Brothers & Co., Grimsby, sent fluid sheep-dip and yellow-paste dip. Prominence was given to the patent sheep-dipper, which was awarded first prize at the Royal Show at Cambridge four years ago.

F. Green & Co., Birmingham, contributed condition-powders for horses, condiments for cattle, sheep, and pigs, poultry medicines and spices. Markham & Co., Derby, made a feature of pig-powders; Cupiss, Diss, Norfolk, of his constitution-balls for sheep; and the "Zotal" sheep-dip and "Albene" vegetable fat for dressing sores on animals occupied prominent positions in the stand of Broomfield & Co., London; Battle, Maltby, & Bower, Lincoln, forwarded samples of sheep-dips, disinfectants, and weed-killer. Spratt's Patent, London, exhibited their extensive variety of medicines, powders, and foods for dogs, poultry, and cattle; and Arnold & Sons, London, made a display of

veterinary instruments. J. Milton Jones, Gloucester, showed a preparation for foot-rot; T. Mott, Littleport, Cambs, a condition-powder and blood-purifier for horses. Medicines were also sent by Freemans & Co., Birmingham, and Thomas Sellors, Coventry.

Newton, Chambers & Co. (Limited), Thorncliffe, Sheffield, made a very prominent feature of a new treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis recently put upon the market. The recipe is :—

Izal	...	...	...	...	3x.
Terebene (pure)	...	...	...	...	5x.
Water to	...	...	...	...	3x.

These are shaken together and poured into a lamp, which is kept burning night and day in the patient's room. Our representative was informed that the treatment had been tried, with a considerable degree of success, on a man employed at the firm's works. The firm also sent samples of sheep-dip and the various "Izal" preparations.

The Sanitas Company were also exhibitors of their various specialities.

Fluid and powder sheep dips, washes, and disinfectants, sanitary powders and soaps were shown at the stand of Morris, Little & Co., Doncaster.

Condiments and spices were to be found at the stands of Thos. Mills (Limited), Wolverhampton; Henri's Patent Cattle-food Company, Hull; J. Beach & Co., Dudley; Roger Errington, Sunderland; Evans & Co., Liverpool; and Joseph Thorley, London.

Of mineral waters the chief exhibitors were Ellis & Son, Ruthin; Stretton Hills Mineral-water Company, Church Stretton; and T. & F. J. Taylor, Newport Pagnell.

W. H. Willcox & Co. (Limited), London, occupied an exceedingly large stand, on which they displayed an assortment of engineers' tools and general engineers' stores, together with their lubricating-oils. The semi-rotary pump, in various sizes, came in for considerable attention. Agricultural oils, engineers' packings and fittings, Wells's hand-painting machine—a speciality coming to the front—were also included in this stand.

James Harrison Carter, Dunstable and London, and Christy & Norris, Chelmsford, had at work a collection of disintegrators for grinding, among other things, drugs, dry soaps, gelatines, spices, chemical manures, &c. These are made to various sizes, according to the requirements of the work. The first-mentioned firm also exhibited a useful machine for dressing drugs, spices, and sugar, &c.

Trade Notes.

B.P. GUIDE.—Mr. Freshfield Reynolds, pharmaceutical chemist, Harrogate, has published a "Pocket-guide to the British Pharmacopoeia," which has been especially compiled for the use of prescribers. Minor alterations which scarcely concern physicians are not noticed. A copy will be sent to any chemist sending name and address and 1d. stamp.

A DELAYED PUBLICATION.—It rarely happens that we receive a book for comment three years after it has been printed, or, to put it in another way, three years between the printing and publication of a book is a record. That is what has happened with "Selected Specimens of Letterpress Printing," issued by Smith's Printing and Publishing Agency, 28-36 Hutton Street, Fleet Street, E.C. It contains about thirty types of circulars and business-cards, showing not only excellent examples of typography, but also of printing in colours, as well as printing of half-tone blocks. The firm had so much work on hand when the book was printed that they did not issue it. Now they have completed extensive premises at St. Albans, and those who are on the look out for artistic originality in advertising-matter should certainly see what "Smith's" can offer them.

"ANTIDYSENTERICUM (DR. SCHWARZ)."—This is a preparation which is of particular interest to our subscribers in hot climates, and to all who do business with places where dysentery is prevalent. The preparation is one devised by Dr. Schwarz, of Constantinople, who has had the opportunity of observing the influences which produce dysentery, the course of the disease, and the influence of various

remedies upon it. As the result of thirty years' observation he has come to the conclusion that pelletierine is one of the most useful antidysenterics, both as a prophylactic and cure, especially when it is combined with myrobalans and extract of pomegranate. Accordingly to his prescription Mr. C. Lageman, of the Chemische Fabrik, Erfurt, Germany, has compounded a pill containing the essential ingredients, and these constitute "Antidysentericum (Dr. Schwarz)." The remedy is put up in oblong tin cases, which retail at a popular price. Those who are interested will obtain further particulars regarding the article from Mr. Lageman. Handbills are supplied in all oriental languages.

Business Changes.

Notice of changes in the retail trade, and opening of new businesses, are inserted in this section free of charge, if properly authenticated.

TAYLOR'S DRUG STORES (LIMITED) are about to open a branch at 81 Duke Street, Barrow.

GRAY'S CITY DRUG HALL COMPANY have opened branch premises at 64 Thomas Street, Armagh.

Mr. J. C. CALEY has disposed of his branch shop, 65 County Road, Walton, Liverpool, to Mr. P. Clarke, of Norwich.

MR. T. H. GABBETIS has taken over the business at Butcher Row, Beverley, carried on for many years by the late Mr. Thomas Vickers.

MR. G. C. JAMES, pharmaceutical chemist, Sheffield, has purchased the business lately carried on by Mr. T. B. Cattell at 189 Aston Road, Birmingham.

MR. STEPHEN HEWSON, of Wednesday Market, Beverley, has removed to more convenient premises next to those he has occupied for the last thirty years.

MR. T. B. CATTELL, chemist and druggist, formerly of Birmingham, has taken over the business lately carried on by Mr. George Johnson at Sutton Coldfield.

MR. G. J. BLORE has opened a branch shop at Langworthy Road, Seedley, Manchester. The shop-fitting has been done by Messrs. Ayrton & Saunders, Liverpool.

MR. A. G. WILLIAMS, chemist and druggist, Newport, has removed from 102 to 90 Chepstow Road. The new premises are commodious and well fitted up.

AN agreement between Mrs. F. R. Bell, widow and executrix of the late F. R. Bell, chemist, of Swaffham, Norfolk, and Mr. G. E. Knights, late of Ely, has been made with the object of carrying on the business and ultimate succession.

THE LONDON ESSENCE COMPANY intimate that on and after June 25 they will remove from their present premises in Chatham Street, Camberwell to a more commodious factory which they have erected at George Street, Camberwell Green, S.E.

New Companies and Company News.

RUSHDEN MINERAL-WATER COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 2,500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on a mineral-water factory at Harborough Road, Rushden, Northants.

FORD'S FOODS (LIMITED).—Capital 20,000*l.*, in 10,000 preference, 9,000 ordinary, and 1,000 deferred shares of 1*l.* each. Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of a manufacturer of foods for horses, dogs, cattle, poultry, and game carried on as "Ford's Foods," at 47 Bendon Valley, Wandsworth.

MEDICAL ELECTRO-THERMIC GENERATOR COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 5,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire, own, and work the invention of Arthur E. Greville

for the application of heat electrically produced for medical purposes. Registered without articles of association. Registered office, 2 Staple Inn, Holborn, W.C.

JAMES PASCALL (LIMITED).—Capital 50,000*l.*, in 10*l.* shares (2,000 6*l.*-per-cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of James Pascall, wholesale and export manufacturing-confectioner, chocolate and cocoa manufacturer, sugar-factor, &c., of Blackfriars Road, S.E., 62 St. Paul's Churchyard, E.C., and Bournemouth. The first directors are James Pascall, Arthur R. K. Farlow, and Charles G. Woodroffe. Registered office, 100 and 101 Blackfriars Road, London, S.E.

WILLIAM SUMMERS & CO. (LIMITED).—Capital 50,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares (25,000 5*l.*-per-cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of an aerated-water manufacturer carried on by Augustus W. Summers at Milk Street and Bridge Street, Bristol, as "William Summers & Co." The first directors are Augustus W. Summers, Herbert W. Summers, Joseph H. Bessell, Wm. Carter, Alfred S. Dunsford, and Edward F. Lane. Qualification, 500*l.* Remuneration, 300*l.* per annum, divisible.

JOSEPH THORLEY (LIMITED).—Capital 200,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares (100,000 5*l.*-per-cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To acquire the business of "Joseph Thorley," of King's Cross, Pembroke Wharf, and St. James's Wharf, Caledonian Road, Islington, and elsewhere, and to manufacture, sell, and deal in "Thorley's food for cattle," and his other foods for cattle, horses, sheep, poultry, game, &c. The first directors are Joe Thorley, Seth Phillips, and Charles W. Hill. Qualification, 1,000*l.* Remuneration, as the company may decide. Registered office, Thorley's Mills, King's Cross, N.

VAUGHANS (LIMITED).—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of manufacturing, wholesale, and retail chemists. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—George A. Barlow, auctioneer, and John H. Wild, estate-agent, West Kirby, Cheshire; Cecil A. Nokes, 24 Brownwood Park, South Hornsey, N.; clerk; Edward B. Reed, Iver, Bucks, brick-merchant; Wm. T. Chapman, manufacturer, Charles E. Johnson, manufacturer, and Ernest A. Patterson, solicitor, of Longton, Staffs. Registered without articles of association. Registered office, 31A Market Street, Longton, Staffs.

SOUTHALL BROTHERS & BARCLAY (LIMITED).—Capital 200,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of "Southall Brothers & Barclay," of Bull Street, Lower Priory, Dalton Street, and Broad Street, Birmingham, and of Balstad, Norway, manufacturing chemists, wholesale and retail chemists and druggists, analytical chemists, surgical-dressing and sanitary-speciality manufacturers, druggists' sundriesmen, druggists' shop-fitters, scientific and chemical apparatus manufacturers, aerated-water manufacturers, and cod-liver-oil manufacturers, including the business of pharmaceutical chemists carried on at Bull Street, Birmingham, under the style of "T. & W. & W. Southall," and to adopt an agreement signed by Alfred Southall and Thomas Barclay. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—Thomas Barclay, Alfred Southall, and John Barclay, pharmaceutical chemists, of 17 Bull Street, Birmingham; Leonard Southall, 75 Francis Road, Birmingham, brass and copper tube manufacturer; Miss Huldah R. Southall, Carrick House, Richmond Hill, Birmingham; Miss Mary Barclay and Miss Gertrude Barclay, Arnccliffe, Cotton Lane, Moseley, Birmingham. The first directors (to number not fewer than three nor more than ten) are: Alfred Southall, Thomas Barclay (managing directors), Wilfrid F. Southall, John Barclay, Alfred W. Southall, Gilbert Southall, and Thomas Barclay, jun. Qualification, 1,000*l.*

LEVINSTEIN (LIMITED).—This company was formed in June, 1895, for the purpose of acquiring the business of manufacturing-chemists and colour-manufacturers carried on at Crumpsall Vale Works, Manchester, by I. Levinstein & Co. (Limited). The share capital issued and fully paid amounts to 90,000*l.*, and on its formation the company issued 70,000*l.* 4*l.*-per-cent. first mortgage debenture stock. To provide for business extension the company is now creating 50,000*l.* 5-per-cent. mortgage debenture stock, and of this an issue of 30,000*l.* was made this week. It is certified that on Novem-

ber 30, 1897, the assets of the company, exclusive of good will, amounted to 174,438l.

SOUTHALL BROTHERS & BARCLAY (LIMITED).—The prospectus of this company is published among our advertisements this week. The business, which is familiar by name to English-speaking pharmacists all over the world, has grown very rapidly in recent years. It was established seventy-eight years ago in the little shop in Bull Street Birmingham, which we figure here, by the late Thomas



Southall, and now the premises are of vast extent, while the company just formed is to erect new and extensive laboratories and mills on four acres of ground at Saltley, near Birmingham. The company takes over the whole concern, for which the price of 133,000l. has been fixed. This is to be paid by 23,333 preference shares, 63,000l. in ordinary shares, and the rest in cash. To outsiders, only 46,667 5-per-cent. preference shares are offered, and though exact figures are not given, it is stated that the net profits for several years past have been "more than sufficient to pay three times the dividends on the whole of the 70,000l. preference shares." The vendors of the business retain the directorate of the company.

Advertising Ideas.

A HERBALIST'S SCHEME.

A Rochdale herbalist issues a handbill, giving the public prescriptions for various ills. The following are specimens:—

For coughs, colds, bronchitis, and asthma: 1½ drams wine of ipecacuanha, ½ dram Collis Brown's chlorodyne, 1 dram spirit sulphuric ether, 1 ounce of glycerine. One tablespoonful three times a day.

For indigestion, liver and stomach complaints: 1 ounce of cascara sagrada, ½ ounce tincture of ginger, ½ ounce extract of liquorice, 1 dram of tincture of podophyllum. Half-teaspoonful night and morning in a little warm water. If it acts too much on the bowels, take less; if too little, take more.

There are also remedies for nervous debility and for worms, and, lastly:—

A sure cure for rheumatism, sciatic, or lumbago: Rub the part where there is pain well with soda and hot water, then apply the following:—½ pint of black oil from the machinery of a factory, 2 ounces turpentine. Rub well for ten minutes. Keep the bowels well open with salts and ginger.

The orthography, and perhaps the pharmacy, of the formula leaves something to be desired; but the handbill-system ingeniously evades both the Apothecaries Act and the Medicine Stamp Act. Selling the cough-mixture, however, risks the Pharmacy Act

"SOMETHING FOR NOTHING."

A chemist in a northern suburb is creating a sensation by giving a toothbrush to purchasers of a box of carbolic tooth-powder, and a razor and strop to those who buy a 1s. cake of shaving-soap.

THE CANDID FRIEND.

The *Medical Times* gives the following extract from a North of England drug-store price-list:—

You may only know what a friend or two may tell you, but when we recommend our own make of goods we know what hundreds tell us, and therefore ought to know better than you what will do you the most good. Before buying a patent medicine, such as Beecham's pills, Eno's fruit salt, or Seigel's syrup, ask one of our assistants' advice, and if you are recommended to buy something different to what you asked for, it will be to your advantage to do so. In short, be guided by us, for our knowledge of drugs is greater than yours.

A NOVEL ADVERTISEMENT.

During the last week (writes a South African correspondent) one of the windows of A. S. Smith & Co.'s pharmacy, Johannesburg, has been drawing big crowds. There was displayed in it the skin of an enormous python, over 20 feet long. The reptile was shot by Mr. Smith in the low country, and on his return from the trip he promptly set it up to draw large crowds to the firm's Alderton's glyco-balm and Smith's snake-bite cure.

"GIVEN AWAY WITH A BOX OF PILLS."

A poster, the gist of which is as follows, appears in the window of a leading pharmacist in a well-known provincial town:—"During the next fortnight a picture of the late Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone will be given to any customer who purchases any one of the following articles"

Then follows a list of the chemist's own preparations.

AT THE TOP OF THE LADDER.

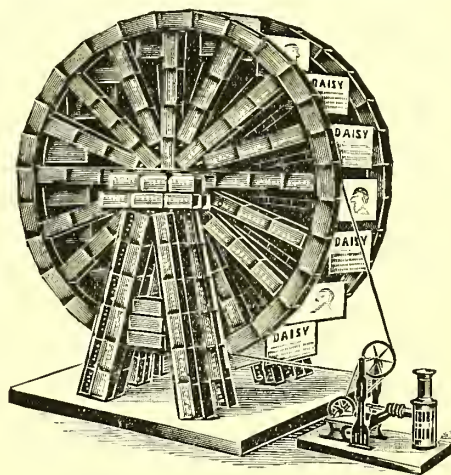
At Jayne's "yellow" drug-store, corner of Washington and Hanover Streets, New York, a ladder has been erected on the front corner of the building, and on the top of this, high in the air, is the figure of a man. He holds an electric torch in his hand, and so natural is the figure that crowds of people are attracted in the belief that it is a live man.

GREAT WHEEL ADVERTISING.

"Vejos" and "Vimbos" are being advertised at night by electric-light signs in a very striking manner on the Great Wheel at Earl's Court just now. The names appear for a certain section of the wheel only, and are of immense size.

THE DAISY WHEEL.

One of the latest among the many window-attractions for which Daisy (Limited) are becoming noted is a working-model of the great wheel at Earl's Court. The wheel is made up entirely of packages of Daisy powders, but cards



bearing announcements of chemists' own proprietaries are shown as the wheel goes round. The motive-power is hot air, which is supplied by a small engine, and the whole is presented with a two-gross order of Daisy powders. We give an illustration of the wheel herewith.

Trade Report.

Notice to Retail Buyers.

It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large quantities in bulk, and, for crude drugs, without charges. For fuller particulars see the article "Lowest Trade Terms" in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, March 19, 1898, p. 473. C.i.f. quotations are for London unless when otherwise stated.

Buyers of essential oils are particularly requested to note that low quotations, especially for Sicilian essences, are rarely, if ever, accompanied by guarantee of genuineness.

42 CANNON STREET, E.C., June 23.

A POOR business week, like the last. There are few changes to report. Cinchona-bark maintained its value at the auctions on Tuesday, and the drug-sales to-day were good as far as they went, but the Crutched Friars Warehouse show was almost the smallest on record. The following are the principal changes of the week:—

Higher	Firmer	Lower
Gamboge Turmeric	Aloes, Cape Bucha Cinchona	Aloes, Curaçao Beeswax Benzoin Benzols Caraway-seeds Galls Ginger Honey, Chilian Phenazone

This report is continued after the index pages.

The most important coca-growing district in Peru is the province of Otuzco, which forms part of the department of La Libertad. There are at present 2,700,000 **Coca-leaves.** plants in the province, divided among nine estates, which produce about 4,700 quintals (213 tons) of coca-leaves per annum; and it is reported that the production might be considerably increased, but it has been checked by the fall in prices. In 1896 430 tons of leaves, and in 1897 241 tons, were exported from Mollendo, the bulk of it being of Bolivian origin. The plant thrives best at a height of from 3,000 to 4,000 feet above the sea-level.

The ways of convention makers are hard. It has just come to light that the patentees of antipyrin—viz. Farbwerken vormals Meister, Lucius & Brüning—had an arrangement with the Basle chemical-**Trouble with Antipyrin.** factory founded by Dr. Bindschedler, under which the firms mutually agreed by contract that Dr. Bindschedler's factory would not sell any antipyrin made by them at less than a minimum price. The Basle people acting for two factories were also limited to a certain output, and there was an agreement between the contracting parties that there should be a periodical settling-up as to values. Now Messrs. Meister, Lucius & Brüning complain that the Basle people have been selling antipyrin privately below the convention-price, and that they have been defrauded to the extent of 150,000*l.* What the end of the matter may be does not yet appear, but the air in the neighbourhood of Basle is at present highly electric.

During 1897 the exportation of liquorice-root from Russia declined, by 41 per cent., below that of 1896. The Syrian root-pressing factories are competing more strongly with the Trans-Caucasus manufacturers in exporting the root to the United States. This successful competition (says the British Consul at Batoum) is chiefly attributable to the fact that the peasantry of the root-growing districts of Asia Minor are

satisfied with a lower rate of payment for collecting the root than in Russia. The transport of the root on camels from the places of collection in Syria to the ports of shipment also costs less than the charges made by the Russian State Railway for carrying the pressed root to Batoum, besides which, freights from Syria to the United States are lower than they are from the Black Sea.

The clove question which was exciting the London market three months ago was still being discussed in Zanzibar when the last mail left. The *Shamba* reprints a **Cloves.** *C. & D.* editorial on the subject, and adds, "Another view on the clove question"—viz., its own—and it is a good view on the whole. The opening sentences of the *Shamba*'s article are soothing; there is no need for excitement, says the writer, there have been short crops of cloves before now, and there will be again. It is difficult—nay, almost impossible—to say what next season's crop of cloves will be, because travellers rarely visit the clove districts, and native reports are not in the least to be relied upon. Still the *Shamba*'s inquiries have resulted in the discovery that the new crop promises favourably. Many Arabs say that the rains have made the trees throw out buds even more freely than last year, and that looks well. Then our contemporary proceeds to indulge in speculations as to what the Arabs will do if there happens to be a big crop. Some of them are hopelessly involved with Indian money-lenders, and all have to conform to the new slave regulations, which give these persons an extra day per week, so that they only work four days now; so that "if the coming season should produce a 500,000 frasila crop only 400,000 frasilas would be gathered," but "there are a multitude of small holders who can be relied upon to pick all they can find. Many of the plantations in Pemba are in the hands of small Indian traders, who employ the Wa-pemba to gather in the crop on the co-operative system of one-third to the labourer and two-thirds to the owner, or, in the case of short years, half and half. There are no cloves left on the trees where this system prevails."

CABLEGRAMS.

SMYRNA, June 22, 4.52 P.M.:—There are purchasers for the American market at the equivalent of 10*s.* to 10*s.* 2*d.* per lb. f.o.b., for druggists' grades, and prices are advancing.

* * * *

HAMBURG, June 23, 11.35 A.M.:—Business neglected, but there are transactions in refined camphor at 235*m.* per 100 kilos. Castor oil is dull of sale, agar-agar is wanted, 290*m.* per 100 kilos. being to-day's price.

* * * *

NEW YORK, June 23, 3.20 P.M.:—The dull feeling which I noted in my letter of last week continues, and not much business has been done. Opium is quoted at \$3.55 per lb., and foreign quinine is 20*c.*, and has a firmer tone. New podophyllum-root is offered at 4*c.* per lb., and fine new Damiana-leaves are coming forward at 11*c.* per lb. Copaiba balsam is in fair supply at 42*c.* American beeswax is easier.

* * * *

BERGEN, June 23, 1.20 P.M.:—The Finmarken fishing is closing. The total catch for the season is 37,229,000. against 57,695,000 last year, the yield of oil being 22,319 barrels, against 28,520, and the market is quiet at 81*s.* per barrel, f.o.b. Bergen, for fine medicinal non-freezing oil.

ACID, BORACIC.—Crystals, 23*s.* per cwt.; powder, 25*s.*

ACID, CARBOLIC.—Crystals, on the spot, are 6½*d.* to 7*d.* per lb. for 39° to 40° C.; 34° to 35° C., 6¾*d.* per lb. Crude, 60° 2*s.*, and 75° 2*s.* 6*d.* per gal.

ACID, CITRIC.—The market remains in a good position at our last quotations. Concentrated lemon-juice is 12*l.* 10*s.*, c. and f. The stock in Messina is smaller than at the same time of last year.

ACID, TARTARIC.—English is unchanged at 1*s.* 1*d.* for B.P. crystals on the spot, and foreign at 1*s.* 0½*d.*; some holders would, however, take a fraction less for quantity.

ANISEED.—Privately 26s., "c.i.f.," is wanted by one holder for *Spanish*. Best *Italian* seed is offered at 25s. per cwt., "c. and f.," London.

BELLADONNA-ROOT.—Quiet. Good sound root is held for 42s., c.i.f., while for inferior grades 36s. to 37s. per cwt. is asked.

CAMPHOR.—Crude is firm, but unchanged, as is also refined, for which 1s. 2½d. per lb., in bells, is wanted by the refiners.

CINCHONA.—The monthly auctions were held on Tuesday, when only a small quantity of bark was offered. A fairly animated tone prevailed throughout, and the bulk of bark offered was sold at fully previous London sales' prices, and rather better than at the last Amsterdam auctions. The unit averaged ¾d. to ¾d. per lb. The ten catalogues comprised 2,724 packages (against 4,145 in May), which were divided as follows:—

	Packages.	Packages.
East Indian cinchona...	1,898 of which	1,766 were sold.
South American cinchona (Calisaya) ...	349	" 152 "
Java cinchona ...	226	" 213 "
Ceylon cinchona ...	224	" 189 "
African cinchona ...	27	" 27 "
	2,724	2,347

The following figures represent the approximate quantities of bark purchased by the principal buyers:—

	Lbs.
Agents for the American and Italian works ...	223,505
Agents for the Frankfurt and Stuttgart works ...	67,372
Agents for the Brunswick quinine-works ...	50,984
Agents for the Mannheim and Amsterdam works ...	43,285
Agents for the Paris works...	36,105
Messrs. Howards & Sons ...	30,021
Agents for the Imperial Quinine Company ...	2,903
Agents for the Auerbach factory ...	—
Druggists, and various buyers ...	42,896
Total quantity sold ...	495,273
Bought in or withdrawn ...	57,370
Total quantity of bark offered ...	552,643

The following prices were realised:—

CEYLON.—*Ledgeriana*, natural stem chips, 2½d.; branch, 3½d.; renewed stem chips, 4½d.; and root, 5d. per lb. *Succirubra*, poor to fair stem chips and shavings, 1½d. to 2½d.; ditto, renewed, 2d. to 2½d.

AFRICAN.—*Succirubra*, mixed quills (27 bales), 3d. per lb.

SOUTH AMERICAN.—*Bolivian Calisaya*, cultivated quills, 4d. to 4½d.

JAVA.—Fair to good *Ledgeriana* stem chips, 3d. to 4½d.; and bold quill at 3d.

EAST INDIAN.—*Officinalis*, ordinary to fair chips and shavings, 1½d. to 2½d.; root, 3½d.; renewed chips and shavings, 2d. to 3d.; good rich, 3½d. to 4½d. *Ledgeriana*, ordinary to fair natural stem chips, 1½d. to 3½d.; hybrid, 2½d. *Ledgeriana*, branch, 2½d. to 2½d.; root, 2½d. to 3½d.; stem chips, fair to good, renewed, 2d. to 4½d. per lb. Red stem chips and shavings, 1½d. to 2½d.; fair to good root, 2d. to 3½d.; bold silvery quill was bought in at 7d.; broken quill, 2½d. to 3½d.; ordinary renewed chips and shavings, 1½d. to 2d.; and rich at 2½d. to 4½d. per lb.

The exports of bark through Mollendo during the last three years was as follows:—1895, 1,083 quintals (1 quintal=101½ lbs.); 1896, 915; and 1897, 796 quintals.

Our Amsterdam correspondent writes on June 22 that the auctions on July 14 will consist of 5,127 packages of manufacturing, and 1,523 druggists' bark. The stock in first hand in Amsterdam on June 21 consisted of 2,045 packages Government, and 11,304 packages private, bark, including the quantity to be offered at auction.

COCOA-BUTTER.—The next cocoa-butter auctions will be held at Amsterdam on July 5, and will consist of 60 tons *Van Houten's* and 10 tons *Helm* brand. On the same date 40 tons *Cadbury's* brand will be offered in London.

COCAINE.—The official quotations for muriate are 9s. 5d.

and 9s. 6d., but a small amount of business has been passing at a few pence less per oz.

CREAM OF TARTAR.—Quiet. Foreign crystals are offered this week at 67s. per cwt., f.o.b. Bordeaux; ordinary foreign crystals on spot, 71s. 6d. per cwt.; 95-per-cent., 72s. 6d.; and B.P. powder, 80s.

DIGITALIS.—New-crop foreign leaves are obtainable at 30s. per cwt., c.i.f.

GALLS.—At the drysaltary auctions 310 cases Chinese were offered, of which 170 sold, without reserve, at 52s. 6d. to 53s. per cwt. for fair, and small and mixed 51s. to 52s. 6d., or about 4s. decline. Privately there is a small demand for both blue and green Persian at 54s. and 43s. respectively.

GENTIAN-ROOT.—Privately 22s., c. and f. London, is asked by one holder.

GLYCERIN remains very firm, and there are no quotations for crude and dynamite kinds, as makers are unable to supply. This has a hardening tendency upon the distilled, and makers quote from 52s. to 54s. per cwt. for 1 260. As shipments to America are at present vetoed, it is expected that the demand from U.S.A. after the war will be good, and so further harden the market.

HELLEBORE.—White hellebore-root is in demand, but is unobtainable in London. There is plenty of powder of German grinding at 25s. per cwt, c.i.f., and English grinding 40s.

HENBANE.—For foreign leaves of the new crop 45s. per cwt., c.i.f., is asked. The English crop will be short this year, and cultivators have withdrawn their quotation of 8s. per lb. for 1897 biennial tops until the extent of the new crop is determined. The same applies to belladonna-leaves, which have been hurt by the frost.

JABORANDI-LEAVES.—New York advices, dated June 15, report that there has been an active inquiry, resulting in sales of over 4,000 lbs. for export. Values have since ruled firmer, and 11c. per lb. is a general quotation.

MENTHOL.—There are buyers at 6s. 3d. per lb, c.i.f., for August-September shipment, but no sellers.

METHYLATED SPIRIT.—The price remains at 2s. to 2s. 1d. per gal. "naked" for contracts.

OIL, CASTOR.—Water-white *Italian* is 37s. to 38s. in cases, "c. and f." London. *Belgian*, first pressing, 30½ on the spot; second pressing, 29½ in barrels; July-August shipment, 26½ per ton ex-wharf. *French* medicinal, 35s. ex-wharf. Oil of British manufacture is unaltered at the quotations given last week.

OIL, CITRONELLA.—Business has been done this week at 12½d. per lb., c.i.f., for October shipment.

OIL, COD-LIVER.—Nothing doing in London, and the same, according to our Bergen correspondent, obtains in Bergen, where the price remains unchanged, at 81s. per barrel, f.o.b. terms, for best Lofoten medicinal oil. The total catch in Finmarken up to June 18 was 6,200,000 with 2,893 barrels, against 11,000,000 with 2,763 barrels in 1897; and 14,600,000 with 7,824 barrels in 1896. The exports from Bergen to date have been 4,032 barrels, against 3,854 barrels at the same time of last year. The following are the yields of steam-refined medicinal oil, up to June 11, at Finmarken during the last three years:—

	1896	1897	1898
Hectol. ...	9,076	3,205	3,355

OIL, NEROLI.—New crop is offered at 7s. 3d. to 7s. 6d. per oz., c.i.f.

OIL, OLIVE.—Finest *Lucca* oil is offered in pipes at 69½ per tun, and ditto *Tuscany*; extra sublime, 60½, down to 51½ for superfine; all c. and f. London.

OIL, PETITGRAIN.—Oil of the new crop is quoted at 65½ per kilo. (1s. 6d. per oz.), c.i.f.

OIL, STAR ANISE.—Quiet at 6s. 9d. to 6s. 10½d. per lb. c.i.f. for quantities.

OPIMUM.—After the good business of last week the market has assumed a quieter tone, but none the less firm. Small sales are reported on the spot of finest *Persian* at 11s. 6d. per lb., and *Turkey* druggists' at 10s. to 10s. 3d. Soft shipping

is unchanged at 11s. to 12s., and seconds at 10s. to 11s. per lb. Our Smyrna correspondent, writing on June 13, states that "about 15 cases of new-crop opium have arrived on the Smyrna market, but the prices paid for it by holders are high. Farmers complain that the yield, now that most of the crop is matured, is not turning out satisfactory, the incisions to the poppy-heads giving poor results, especially with the spring-sown plants. It is therefore expected that we shall have even a smaller crop this year than what was at first expected. The sales for the week ending the above date amount to 54 cases, mostly for exportation. Arrivals since May 18 are 3,668 cases, against 2,510 cases last year. The market closes firm." From Constantinople we hear, under date of June 17, that "opium has still further advanced to the extent of 6d. per lb., and market to-day is firm at 10s. to 10s. 3d. per lb. for druggists' grades, with few sellers. Sales during the past week amount to about 40 cases druggists' quality at 9s. 6d. to 9s. 8d. per lb. This stiffening of prices is due to U.S. purchases here and in London; also to discouraging news from growing districts which point to the yield being under what was previously estimated."

OTTO OF ROSE.—Advices from Constantinople are to the effect that the harvest is poor. Young plants have flowered well, but not the old. It is too early yet to predict higher prices. From Kezanlik we hear that the greater number of producers report the yield of the new crop to be less than that of last year—in some instances it is even said to be 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. less, owing to damage to the old trees. Against this, however, there are the old stocks, which appear to be rather larger than usual, so that probably when prices are fixed they will not be higher than at present, especially as the American market cannot be looked upon as a large consumer this next season.

PHENAZONE.—The note at the head of this section on the antipyrin dispute will be observed. Following upon our note of last week the price of phenazone in second-hands has fallen to 17s. 6d. per lb.

POTASH CYANIDE.—Both English and foreign makers are still very busy; for prompt shipment 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. per lb. is asked for 98-per-cent.

POTASH PERMANGANATE is obtainable at 57s. 6d. per cwt. in ton lots, or at 60s. in smaller quantities.

QUICKSILVER.—Quiet and unchanged, at 7l. 12s. 6d. per bottle from importers, or 7l. 12s. in second-hands.

QUININE.—German brands of sulphate are still quoted at 10d. per oz. for 1,000-oz. lots, or at 9½d. in second-hands, manufacturers have been doing good business during the week, and have booked ahead. *Pelletier's* brand has been reduced to 1s. 3½d. per oz., in quantity.

SAFFRON.—Still firm at 34s. per lb. for the finest Valencia and 32s. 6d. to 30s. 6d. for other grades. Alicante is 21s per lb.

SANTONIN.—Dull at 4s. 5½d. per lb. in lots of 1 cwt.

SEEDS.—At auction on Wednesday 220 bags Morocco. *Coriander* sold without reserve at 5s. 9d. to 6s. per cwt., being steady. *Penugreek* firm, at 11s. 6d. per cwt. for Morocco. East Indian offers at 10s. 3d., and Egyptian at 9s. 6d. per cwt. *Canary* quiet, but steady; Turkish at 26s. per qr. Small sales of Mogador *Cumin* are reported at 23s. 6d. per cwt.; *Malta* can be bought at this price for ordinary quality. *Caravays* dull with a lower tendency.

SPICES.—Business has been on a very small scale, and prices barely steady, in some instances lower. *Cochin Ginger* at Wednesday's sales was 1s. cheaper, at 20s. 6d. per cwt. for fair washed rough, and at 16s. 6d. for smalls; boldish brown Calicut rough sold at 24s. 6d. to 25s. per cwt., being 1s. to 1s. 6d. lower. Japan bought in at 18s., but privately small sales at 17s. 6d., being steady. Bengal has sold at 19s. on the spot, but a higher price is asked for arrival. Jamaica only partly sold, irregularly, at steady prices to 3s. per cwt. decline; fair quality brought 84s. to 88s. per cwt. Zanzibar *Cloves* are about ½d. per lb. lower on the week; darkish ordinary sold at 3½d. per lb. at auction; and privately fair quality at 3½d.; August-October delivery at 3½d. per lb. *Chillies* dull, and both Zanzibar and Japan were bought in. *Pimento* sold at 4d. per lb. for common, and at 4½d. for fair. *Mace* quiet, bold palish mixed red

heavy Penang sold at 2s. 2d. per lb. *Nutmegs* in very little demand; 67s sold at 2s. 4d. per lb. *Cinnamon-chips* bought in at 3½d. per lb. for good quality. *Pepper* steady for both black and white at last week's quotations.

SHELLAC.—At the auctions on Tuesday 1,232 cases were offered, about half of which were sold, second orange at steady rates and button at higher prices, fair TN being still offered at 64s. and AC garnet at 68s. per cwt. The following prices were paid:—*Button*: Fine bold genuine, 91s. to 93s.; fine pale firsts, 83s.; ordinary to fair firsts, 73s. to 78s.; good seconds, 74s. to 75s.; circle 2's, 64s. to 68s.; ordinary glassy thirds, 59s. to 60s.; and common low dark, 26s. to 35s. *Second orange*: Good bright cakey, 70s.; fair flat reddish, 63s. to 64s.; middling curly reddish, 62s.; ordinary dark red, 60s. to 61s.; common red weak lively flat, 59s. to 60s. per cwt. *Garnet*: A few cases of fine blocky OCC sold at 62s. Since the auctions the market has been quiet at steady prices.

SULPHUR.—The total shipments from Messina from July 1, 1897, to May 31, 1898, were:—In 1897-98, 417,937 tons; 1896-97, 371,498 tons; and 1895-96, 371,296 tons.

TURMERIC.—At auction on Tuesday 252 bags of Cochin sold at firm to dearer prices; ordinary rough finger realised 17s. to 17s. 6d., and slightly wormy split bulbs 9s. to 9s. 3d. per cwt. Privately only small sales are reported, owing to the higher prices asked. For good bright Madras finger 22s. is wanted, and Bengal 17s. 6d.

TURPENTINE.—Flat at 22s. 3d. per cwt. for American on the spot.

VALERIAN-ROOT is offered at 21s. per cwt. on the spot.

Drug-auctions in London.

THE sales to-day were not voluminous, but were notable for better supplies of cardamoms and of beeswax. Senna was also more plentiful, but the quality leaves much to be desired. The following are the drugs offered and sold publicly:—

	Offered	Sold		Offered	Sold
Aconite (Japan) ...	22	0	Ipecacuanha (Rio) ...	32	3
Aloe (Cape) ...	66	64	Jalap ...	20	3
(Curaçao) ...	136	136	Kamala ...	10	0
(East Indian) ...	1	1	Kola-nuts ...	19	19
Annatto-seed ...	3	0	Liquorice-root ...	85	19
Antimony ...	40	0	Mastic ...	5	0
Araroba ...	36	0	Matico ...	4	0
Asphaltum ...	29	0	Musk ...	24	5
Balsam copaiba ...	16	5	Myrrh ...	44	5
Tolu ...	25	0	Oil, aniseed (star) .	5	0
Peru ...	1	0	cajuput ...	8	0
Benzoin ...	221	9	cassia ...	1	0
Buchu ...	9	9	cinnamon ...	38	0
Cactus-flowers ...	10	0	eucalyptus ...	38	0
Calumba ...	178	0	lemon ...	1	0
Canary-seed ...	40	0	lemongrass ...	36	10
Cardamoms ...	459	349	nutmeg ...	4	0
Castorum ...	2	1	peppermint ...	4	0
Chiretta ...	9	9	rose (Bombay) ...	12	0
Cinchona ...	42	10	wintergreen ...	1	0
Civet ...	1	0	Orange-peel ...	69	0
Coca-leaves ...	53	2	Orris-root ...	28	15
Colocynth ...	17	2	Otto of rose ...	9	9
Croton-seed ...	27	4	Patchouli ...	92	0
Cubebs ...	165	0	Podophyllum-root .	1	1
Cumin-seed ...	79	0	resin	36	0
Cuscuta ...	94	0	Rhubarb ...	85	21
Cuttlefish bone ...	18	13	Saffron ...	1	0
Elaterium ...	1	0	Sandarac ...	56	0
Elemi ...	9	0	Sarsaparilla ...	78	40
Ergot of rye ...	42	13	Scammonium ...	5	0
Ess. witch-hazel ...	84	0	Scammony-root ...	80	0
Galbanum ...	16	0	Seedlac ...	54	0
Galls ...	564	1	Senega ...	6	6
Gamboge ...	20	8	Senna ...	373	170
Gentian ...	7	0	Squills ...	23	0
Golden-seal root ...	1	1	Sticklac ...	92	0
Guaiacum resin ...	10	0	Tamarinds ...	52	32
Guarana ...	1	0	Tonka-beans ...	12	0
Gum ammoniacum	13	3	Vanilla ...	327	230
arabic ...	50	0	Vermilion ...	5	0
olibanum ...	10	0	Wahoo-bark ...	1	1
Honey ...	343	52	Wax (bees') ...	814	84
Ipecacuanha (Cart.)	10	0	(Japan) ...	20	0

The condition of No. 10 Sale-room was much improved to-day by the floor being laid with a plain but substantial kamptulicon, and the recess at the back was enclosed by a green-baize screen. These alterations subdued the noise of footsteps, and even the voices of buyers and sellers were hushed into melodious sound.

ALOES.—The most important offering to-day was an arrival of new-crop *Curaçao* aloes of somewhat capey character, which sold cheaply at 14s. 6d. to 15s. per cwt., the harder lots fetching 16s. *Cape* was also in fair supply, and, considering the quality, sold at slightly higher value—viz., 26s. per cwt. for fair bright hard, 18s. to 24s. 6d. for slightly drossy and softish; and a parcel of dark and capey E.I. aloes sold at 17s. 6d. per cwt.

ARAROA. "or whatever it may be," was offered to the extent of 36 packages, but as it consisted chiefly of chipped wood, with little medullary matter, no bid was made for it. The chrysarobin content was not known.

BALSAM COPAIBA.—Of African, Maracaibo, and Maranham, the last was the only kind to sell, and 1s. 4d. per lb. was paid for fine clear, and 1s. 5d. for thin cloudy. A bid of 8½d. per lb. for the African was refused.

BALSAM PERUVIAN.—Easier, 9s. 3d. per lb. would have bought a "land carriage" lot of Angostura to-day, and privately there are offers at 9s.

BALSAM TOLU.—For softish balsam 1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d. per lb. were the limits stated in auction.

BENZOIN.—Dull of sale and cheaper. Sumatra ordinary seconds, small palish almonds, rather false-packed, sold at 6l. per cwt., and poor dull Penang thirds at 50s. Siam did not sell; the best lot was bought in at 27l.; less would bay. No new gum offered.

BUCHU-LEAVES.—Firm, but unchanged. Fair green round leaves sold at 4½d. per lb. The supply at the Cape is said to be exhausted.

CALUMBA.—The market is lifeless, and all the lots offered to-day were bought in, no business being done publicly.

CANARY-SEED.—Rarely offered at the drug-sales had to retire, no one being willing to pay 25s. per quarter for it.

CARDAMOMS.—A good selection was offered, and better prices were obtained for the finest grades; others were steady, and seeds cheaper. Of *Ceylon-Malabar*, small to medium pods were the only kind to sell, 2s. 4d. per lb. being paid, except several of *Mangalore* character, of medium size, which sold at 2s. 6d. Fine bold *Mysore*, pale and pretty full-seeded, sold at 3s. 11d. per lb.; seconds ditto, 3s. 9d.; medium ditto, at 3s. 4d.; small to medium pale round, at 2s. 4d. to 2s. 9d.; fair pale, mixed sizes, 1s. 11d.; medium to bold brown round, 2s. 5d. to 2s. 8d.; mixed ditto, 1s. 11d.; pale medium longs were bought in at 2s. 8d., and some sold at 3s.; small ditto sold at 2s. 5d.; while brown medium longs sold at 1s. 11d. to 2s. 9d.; splits sold at 2s. to 2s. 10d.; and seeds at 2s. 4d. to 2s. 9d.

CASTORUM.—Damp small to medium pods sold at 31s. per lb.

CHIRETTA.—Threepence-halfpenny per lb. was paid for fair.

CINCHONA.—Maracaibo sold at 3d. per lb. for first and second class damages, and thirds and fourths were parted with at 1d.

COCA-LEAVES.—Ceylons sold at 7½d. per lb. for good bright pale. Truxillos were offered and bought in at 6d. per lb. Privately Huanoco leaves are 10d. per lb., c.i.f.

COLOCYNTH.—Fair pale mixed, partly broken, Turkey apple sold at 10½d. per lb., subject to approval; 9½d. was refused for a parcel of good pale partly broken.

CROTON-SEEDS.—In better supply, and slightly cheaper for second quality, which sold at 65s. to 71s. for medium sizes, slightly dull; 85s. to 87s. 6d. was refused for fine bright, and from 90s. to 95s. per cwt. is wanted.

CUBEBS.—Unsaleable in auction. Privately 24s. 6d. is being paid for good sifted grey berries.

CUTTLE-FISH.—Exceptionally bold and white bone, rarely seen on our market, was quickly disposed of at 8d. per lb.; 3½d. was paid for fair medium, and lower prices, down to 1½d., for other sizes partly broken but fair white colour.

ELEMI.—For fine white pasty 20s. per cwt. was refused.

ERGOT OF RYE.—The sales effected were of Spanish, which sold without reserve at 6½d. to 7½d. per lb. It was decidedly weevily. Another poor lot sold at 5½d. per lb. Privately 9d. is asked for sound German.

ESSENCE OF WITCH-HAZEL.—About 80 barrels, containing 25-per-cent. proof spirit, and in bond, were offered, and nobody would bid more than 2d. per gallon for it. Retired in consequence.

EUONYMUS-BARK.—One bale of pale root-bark, much damaged, sold at 2d. per lb.

GALBANUM.—Good pale drop was limited at 1s. 4d. per lb. at auction.

GALLS.—*Turkey* were in large supply, but did not sell. One bag of damaged sweepings realised 34s. per cwt. *Morea* were not wanted.

GAMBOGE.—In small supply at auction. Really fine gum is at present unobtainable. What was offered to-day consisted of medium mixed Saigon pipe of mostly fair colour, and sold readily at 8l. to 8l. 10s. per cwt.

GOLDEN-SEAL ROOT.—A buyer paid 1s. 3d. per lb. for a badly-damaged bale. Old root is firmly held in New York at 48c. to 50c. per lb. New spring drug, however, is being offered at much lower figures, but the quality of this root is not satisfactory, it being deficient in hydrastine.

GUM AMMONIACUM.—Fine pale drop sold at 55s., and poor seedy and woody at 15s. per cwt.

HONEY.—Brown partly set *Jamaica* sold in auction at 22s. per cwt., clear unfiltered 21s. to 22s., low ditto 20s. 6d.; for set honey, mixed colours, 21s. 6d. was refused, and firm white set of good flavour was bought in at 25s. For extra-white *Italian* honey in tins 33s. is wanted privately, and 19s. 6d. for ordinary yellow in barrels. For *Californian* 34s. was the price mentioned in auction, and 25s. for *Peruvian*.

IPECACUANHA.—Cartagena did not sell, but business is being done privately as the last quoted rates. The only bales of Rio root sold were second-hand damages, rather mouldy, for which 8s. 5d. to 8s. 7d. was paid; 9s. was the price named for good sound wiry root, and 9s. 3d. for bold picked.

JALAP.—New crop was offered to-day, and consisted of mostly good bold Vera Cruz tuber, but the only kind that sold was slightly greasy and burnt, which fetched 5d. per lb.; 7d. is wanted for the best.

KOLA NUTS.—Sold well at from 2½d. to 3d. for washed West Indian. The exports from the Congo Free State during 1897 were 1,345 kilos., valued at 2,017 f.

LIQUORICE-ROOT.—Poor rough Russian sold without reserve at 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per cwt., which was about its worth. The exports from Beirut amounted to 2,050 bales (16,400l.) in 1897, against 1,060 bales (10,400l.) in 1896.

MANDRAKE-ROOT.—A parcel of third-class damaged root part mouldy sold at 17s. per cwt., which was a good price, considering that sound root can be bought at 2½d. per lb. on the spot.

MATICO-LEAVES.—Fair green leaf sold privately, we are informed, at 9d. per lb., a high figure, considering that 6d. per lb. was the price a few days ago.

MUSK.—Good *Assam* grain sold at 29s. per oz. Pile I *Toukin* fine thin skin blue and grey, fairly dry, and good flavour, sold at 54s. per oz., and pile III, rather thickish skin, at 31s. 6d. Four tins more are to be had at the same figure. *Nepaul* grain, so highly ammoniacal as to win the pleasure of experts, was bought in at 75s. per oz.

MYRRH.—Common Aden siftings sold at 10s. per cwt.

OIL, LEMONGRASS.—Quiet. An attempt on the part of speculators to "bull" the market had no effect upon it, and there is plenty oil available in London at 4d. to 4½d. per oz. on the spot, while there are sellers forward at 3½d., and buyers at 3¼d. In auction a parcel was offered "without

reserve," and sold at 3½d. per oz. Another lot was bought in at 5d.

ORRIS.—Dark unpeeled Verona root was sold at 5s. per cwt.; fair medium ditto was bought in at 25s. per cwt., and bright Mogador at 25s.

OTTO OF ROSE.—Nine vases (each containing 1 kilo.) of Turkish, the quality of which we cannot vouch for, was offered without reserve, and sold with fair competition at 11s. 6d. to 13s. per oz.

PODOPHYLLIN.—McK. & R. brand was bought in at 8s. per lb.

RHUBARB.—Easier. *Canton* root, round and flat medium fair fracture, sold at 1s. per lb. Flat *High-dried*, fair, good fracture, was limited, at 1s. 1d. per lb.; medium ditto, 1s.; third size, 11d. Dull-coated, common rough round, sold at 6d. to 6½d., and a lot of flat high-dried, slightly wormy, was sold without reserve at 11d. and 11½d. For fine druggists' trimming Shensi, ¾ pink, ¼ grey fracture, and compact, 3s. is wanted, 2s. 10d. being refused; for good ditto 2s. 4d. per lb. was paid, and for pickings 1s. 4d. was refused. Round Shensi was limited at 1s. 2d. per lb.

SARSAPARILLA.—In good demand, and prices fairly maintained, as the following report shows. Genuine grey Jamaica realised 1s. 9d. per lb. down to 1s. 4d. for mouldy; native red and yellow mixed, 9½d., and good native red, 10d. to 11d. Lima-Jamaica, usual sorts, sold at 1s. 2d., and second-class damages at 10d. Guayaquil did not sell.

SENEGA-ROOT.—Good bold root sold at the full market value—1s. 1d. per lb. Prices come higher from New York this week, though the advance is reported as temporary only. The stock carried over this year is said to be unusually heavy—200,000 lbs.—and cost the holders close on present values. Great uncertainty prevails as to the amount to be gathered this year, but taking last year as a standard, when low prices prevailed, it is surmised that the collection of root will be as large as usual.

SENNA.—Easier. The supply nearly all consisted of small Tinnevely leaf, and most of it was spotty or brown on green, otherwise jaundiced in aspect. For such, 1½d. to 2d. per lb. was paid. Medium leaf of fair colour and unspotted appearance sold at 3d. to 3½d. Bold ditto was limited at 5d. Pods were 1½d. to 1½d. per lb. *Alexandrian* siftings sold at 2½d. per lb.

TAMARINDS.—Fine new-crop West Indian sold at 10s. 6d. per cwt.

VANILLA.—Easier. Only Mauritius sold. They were mostly good beans, well-frosted or chocolate, and the following were the rates realised:—5½ to 6 inch, 17s. to 17s. 6d.; 6½ to 7 inch, 19s. 18s. 6d., 16s., 20s. 6d.; 7½ to 8 inch, 20s.; 7 to 7½ inch, 17s. Small brownish beans: 3½ to 5 inch, 16s.; 4½ to 5 inch, 14s. 6d., 13s.; 4 to 5 inch, 13s.; 5 to 5½ inch, 15s.; 5½ to 6 inch, 15s. 6d.; 6 to 6½ inch, 14s., 15s.; 8 to 8½ inch, 16s. 6d.; slightly mouldy, 5s. 6d. The exports from Tahiti in 1897 were 75,740 lbs. (35,408l.), against 59,134 lbs. (16,057l.) in 1896 and 50,628 lbs. (7,209l.) in 1895. In 1897 the value of the vanilla sent to the United States was 20,236l.; Great Britain, 2,249l.; New Zealand, 6,281l.; and France, 6,642l. In January, 1897, vanilla at Tahiti was worth 1l. per kilo., and it gradually rose in value to 1l. 16s. per kilo. in April, after which it gradually declined to 16s.

WAX, BEES'.—Cheaper by 2s. 6d. per cwt. *Madagascar* was the only kind which sold freely—viz., good bright yellow, 6l. 10s. to 6l. 12s. 6d.; for fair ditto, 6l. 2s. 6d. was refused. Bright and smooth orange *Jamaica* sold (one parcel) at 6l. 15s. For the best lot in sale 7l. 10s. was wanted, 7l. being refused. For guaranteed genuine *Italian* wax of uniform colour, 6l. 5s. per cwt. is asked privately.

WAX, JAPAN.—The spot price is 35s. per cwt. for good pale squares; forward, 32s. 6d.

Heavy Chemicals.

Business all round in the heavy-chemical market is very quiet, and the general demand, with the exception of a few products, is poor. In the Lancashire district the request for miscellaneous articles is by no means so heavy as is usual at

this period of the year, owing to the state of the textile trades. On the Tyne it is the usual race-week holidays, and business is very quiet except for a moderately good inquiry for *South Durham salt* and *Soda crystals*. Shipments to the Baltic, too, are scarcely up to the average. On the Clyde the same quiet feeling also exists. Values, for the most part, are fairly well maintained, but where changes seem imminent they are mostly in a downward direction. *Beaching-powder* is only in moderate request, both for home and export, and price is about 5l. to 5l. 5s. on rails, soft-wood casks, f.o.b. Liverpool, 5l. 5s. *Caustic soda* is also rather easier; present figures are: 60-per cent., 6l. 2s. 6d. to 6l. 5s.; 70-per cent., 7l. 2s. 6d. to 7l. 5s.; 74-per cent., 7l. 15s. to 8l.—all f.o.b. Liverpool; 76 to 77-per cent., 8l. 5s., f.o.b. Tyne or Liverpool. *Soda crystals* firm; Tyne 2l. 12s. 6d., and Liverpool 3l. *Bicarbonate of soda* firm, and is quoted 7l. per ton, f.o.b. Liverpool, in 10-cwt. casks, or 7l. 5s. for 1-cwt. kegs. *Ammonia alkali*, 58 per cent., steady at 4l. 2s. 6d., free on rails, maker's works, or 4l. 5s., f.o.b. Liverpool. *Siltcake* steady at 25s. per ton, on rails, in bulk. *Chlorates of potash and soda* are quiet at last quotation given. *Nitrate of soda* firm and scarce, with slightly upward movement. *Cream of tartar* is lower; crystals 70s. 6d. to 71s., and powdered 72s. 6d. to 74s. 6d. *Benzols* are also dull, and have declined 90 per cent. to 10d., and 50-per cent. to 11d. *Sulphate of ammonia* very quiet, and nothing doing in forward business. Beckton terms, prompt, 8l. 17s. 6d. to 9l.; Hull, London, and Leith are all 9l. *South Durham salt* firm at 9s. 6d. to 10s. per ton, f.o.b. *Borax* and *boracic acid* quiet; crystals are respectively 13s. and 23s., and powdered 13s. 6d. and 25s. *Sil ammoniac* steady at 33l. per ton for seconds, and 35l. for firsts. *Brown acetate of lime* shows a further decline of about 5s. per ton, and still lower figures may be looked for. *Green copperas* easy. Business in *linseed* and *cottonseed* cakes is only poor, but there are no material alterations to note in values.

The Liverpool Drug-market.

Our Liverpool correspondent, writing on June 22 reports that in *Castor oil* there has been an upward movement in good seconds Calcutta in consequence of the strong reports from Calcutta, but French oil has shown a measure of weakness during the week. Calcutta good seconds are held for 3½d. to 3¾d., but French first-pressure has declined to 3½d., at which sales are reported. *Chilian honey* is easier, several parcels just landed meeting with no encouragement at auction, and values of the different grades range from 20s. to 28s. per cwt. *Californian honey*, on the other hand, is in a better position, and importers are stiffening in their views of values, which vary from 30s. per cwt. to 40s., as in quality. *Canary-seed* is very flat at the moment, in virtue of the new crop being offered, and sales are recorded at 25s. 6d. to 26s. per quarter. *Quillaia-bark* is steady, at 18l. 5s. to 18l. 10s. per ton. *Sulphate of copper* is fluctuating from 15l. 17s. 6d. to 16l. per ton, with little or no interest being taken in the article. *Chilian beeswax* continues to arrive, but is unchanged in value; 7 packages of Conakry, W.C.A., were sold at auction at 6l. 10s. to 6l. 13s. 9d. per cwt. *Potashes* are steady, at 20s. to 23s. 3d. per cwt.; and *Pearl-ashes* 35s. per cwt. *Teneriffe Cochineal* has been offering at 10d. for blackish grey, and 10½d. for black. In *Turmeric* there has been a transaction, 86 bags changing hands at 6s. 6d. for Cochin bulb. *Gums* of rabic descriptions rule rather idle, and very little business has taken place. *Soudan* sorts remain scarce, and there appears to be nothing available under 77s. per cwt. Medium qualities are generally steady, but much of the stock is held for prices above present market values, hence the available stock is somewhat small. *African ginger* is selling slowly—4 tons of Monrovia sold at 16s. 6d. per cwt.; and 26 bags Sierra Leone fetched 17s. 6d.; while some holders ask 19s. per cwt. for this grade. *Cream of tartar* is steady, at 70s. to 77s., according to quality and strength.

The Hamburg Drug-market.

Our Hamburg correspondent, writing on June 21, states that business is very quiet. *Antimony* is firm at 43m. to 50m. per 100 kilos., and tending higher. *Cape aloes* is also firm at 55m., *Curacao* at 38m. to 40m. per 100 kilos. *Star-anise* remains steady and scarce at 240m. per 100 kilos.

Pern balsam is firmly held at 20m. per kilo. *Camphor* quiet and neglected, with second-hand sellers at 237½m. to 235m. per 100 kilos. *Menthol* quiet at 14½m. per kilo. *Carnauba wax* is quiet; prices vary from 92½m. to 130m. per 100 kilos. *Japan wax* is 67½m. per 100 kilos. *Rio ipecacuanha* is firm at 21m. to 22m. per kilo. *Castor oil* is dull; first pressing on the spot at 58m., July-August delivery at 55m. per 100 kilos. in barrels. Essential oils are almost unchanged.

New York Markets.

Our correspondent, writing on June 14, states that continued dullness prevails in the drug and chemical markets, and there are few changes of any importance to chronicle. The purchasing-demand is light, dealers buying only in accordance with actual necessities. The war has little, if any, effect on business, barring the increase in freights, which serves to keep up the prices of a few imported articles. There is an entire absence of speculative demand.

OPIMUM continues extremely dull. Case lots can be bought at 3.45c., and the regular jobbing price is 3.47½c. to 3.50c.

QUININE has declined 2c. per oz., as a result of the low figures realised at the last bark-sale, and 20c. is now quoted for foreign and 22c. for domestic, in 100-oz. cans.

CHINESE CANTHARIDES has advanced in consequence of scarcity, and 37½c. to 40c. is now asked.

CURACAO ALOES continues firm notwithstanding recent heavy arrivals, and 27.8c. is still the lowest quotation.

JALAP is slightly easier in consequence of abundant supplies, and 9 to 11 is the price.

MEXICAN SARSAPARILLA is also easier, and 7c. will buy in quantity.

WILD-CHERRY AND WITCH-HAZEL BARKS.—New crop is beginning to arrive; 5½c. and 5¼c. are asked respectively.

SASSAFRAS OIL is plentiful, and there is a good export-demand; 31c. to 33c. will buy. Higher figures are not improbable, as the artificial oil can now be bought cheaper than the natural.

BALSAMS.—Copaiba is easier in consequence of arrivals. For Central American 45c., and for Para 50c., is asked, but holders will sell for less. Tolu has further declined, and 35c. will now buy. Peru is dull, at 2.10 to 2.15.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—New crop is being offered at 3c. per lb. Old bark is firmly held at 4½c. to 6c., according to age and quality.

HONEY has advanced, and the Californian holders ask 6c. New stock has commenced to arrive, and reports state that the amount will be very small this year. New York dealers quote 7c. per lb. (or 32s. per cwt.) in 100-case lots, for pure white.

IPECACUANHA.—The stock is light and in very firm hands. Prices have advanced to 2.30 to 2.40 for high-grade Rio-root. The market is bare of the lower-grade roots.

COCA-LEAVES are firmly held, like all South American drugs. The demand is light, and in the event of increased demand, higher prices will rule. Truxillo are still at 12 to 13c., and Huanoco 20 to 24c., according to grade.

BEESWAX continues scarce, and 31c. is now the lowest quotation for ordinary pure.

"I FIND the 'Pharmaceutical Formulas' very useful."—
"T. A. C.," 216/38.

MR. HENRY SADLER, pharmacist, William Street, Sydney has been appointed a member of the N.S.W. Board of Pharmacy, in place of Mr. C. A. Marshall, who had resigned.

VEGETABLE EXTRACTS.—Mr. C. O'Sullivan, F.R.S., principal chemist to Messrs. Bass, Ratcliff & Gretton, of Burton, has to be added to those who have discovered how to make a beef-extract-like food from brewers' grains. It is highly probable that in the immediate future works will be erected in Burton for the manufacture of the food.

THE WAYS OF BOOK-CANVASSERS.—Writing from the Deux Sèvres Department, a friend relates that book-canvassers have been going through the country districts there collecting subscriptions for a book of family medicine, which, according to their statements, is to be published under the auspices of the Faculty of Medicine with the humanitarian object of allowing everyone to be his own doctor and pharmacist, thus avoiding the charges of the latter. The book is to consist of 548 pages, and the subscription price is 8f. 50c. (about 7s.). It is said to be under official patronage, and the cost of production is so great that 100,000 canvassers have been drawing largely on their imagination for these particulars, as, of course, the Faculty of Medicine has nothing to do with the work.—*From our Paris Correspondent.*



In writing letters for publication correspondents should adopt a concise, but not abbreviated, style. They are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Letters, with

Notice to Correspondents. or without a nom-de-plume, must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

Queries should be written on separate pieces of paper, and the regulations printed under the sections to which they apply should be strictly observed.

Motors for Chemists.

SIR,—Having had many inquiries from my brother chemists with reference to the paragraph which appeared in one of your recent issues respecting my purchase of a motor, perhaps you will kindly allow me to give a few particulars of it for the benefit of those who are interested in the coming mode of locomotion. The machine referred to is a "Beeston" motor-tricycle. It consists of an ordinary tricycle with a petrol-motor attached, the motor developing 1½ horse-power. It is driven by a mixture of petrol and air, which, properly proportioned, forms an explosive gas. This is introduced into the cylinder, and ignited by means of a platinum tube kept red-hot with the heat from a common Bunsen burner, which burns the same oil that drives the motor. The motor is started by pedalling the machine, and after a few revolutions of the pedals the motor begins to propel the tricycle, leaving the rider nothing to do but steer and enjoy the scenery as he speeds along. I may mention that the pneumatic tyres are unpuncturable, and the machine can be driven any pace from seven to over twenty miles per hour at the will of the rider. I have run my machine over 750 miles without the slightest hitch of any kind whatever. My longest trip was sixty-two miles, at an average of fourteen miles per hour, and the cost of oil used for the journey was something under 10d. To those chemists who make a practice of looking their customers up in the country I cannot recommend these machines too strongly. Unlike the universal bike, they are available in all sorts of weather, irrespective of the roads being wet or dry, and a few pounds of extra luggage make no difference whatever to their running. I consider they are equally valuable to the victim of long hours, who wishes for a change of scenery and to imbibe some fresh air without the effort of propelling himself along, for it is not everybody who can grind against a head wind or along a muddy road without feeling baked at the finish. For business-purposes I think there will be a very great demand for these machines, as soon as the general public become better acquainted with them. Trusting my experience may prove beneficial to others,

I am, Sir, yours faithfully.

Market Rasen, June 18.

W. B. JEVONS.

Liquor Strychninæ Hydrochloridi.

SIR,—With reference to the liq. strychninæ hydrochlor. of the B.P. 1898 being less liable to deposit crystals, I should like to state I have been shown a solution made three weeks ago which has abundance of crystals at the bottom of the bottle and on its sides.

I have every reason to believe it was carefully prepared and the pure salt used.

London, June 13.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE ROE.

The Pharmacopœia.

SIR,—May I trespass on your kindness by asking you to insert the following from an old chemist, who has been in the business for nearly half a century, regarding the new Pharmacopœia? I thought it was to be a great improvement upon the old one, but I am sorry to say that my honest opinion is that it is, to a great extent, a tissue of absurdities. In the first place, take spt. vini rect. I suppose chemists are to keep three different kinds now. And pray what are chemists to do who have as much as 2 gals. of tr. rhei co. in stock with saffron in? Another ridiculous change is pil. ferri carb., which they leave out altogether, which is a great mistake. It is one of the best pills for anæmia, far better than

Blaud's. Another absurdity is putting ol. amygd. dulc. in lin. ammoniac. Ol. olivæ was cheaper, and quite as healing. These are only a very few of the absurdities. The only improvement I can find in the whole book is leaving out saffron in tr. rhei, as medicinally it was of very little use. But what I complain of most is the injustice of making a poor chemist, say, in a small country business, keep all the new tinctures, syrups, ointments, &c. A great many chemists in the country get a prescription once a week or thereabouts. A gentleman in a letter stated that no doubt the medical men would soon make themselves acquainted with the Pharmacopœia. He is very much mistaken. Many medical men in this city never look in the Pharmacopœia. I was asked not long ago by one of them to tell him the composition of pil. rhei co. I was talking to three of the oldest chemists in this city, and they all say that the alterations are no good. Take, for instance, S.V.R. in the older Pharmacopœia, when proof spirit was partes equales; that was quite strong enough for all tinctures, excepting tr. camph. co. The compilers of the Pharmacopœia have made it scientific, and that is all. If the Society had tried their best to put down large companies they would have earned the undying gratitude of a down-trodden, persecuted, and ruined profession.

6 Walton Well Road, Oxford,
June 15.

Yours truly,

J. MASON.

Income-tax $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the Pound.

SIR,—It may safely be assumed that the Budget proposals will become law in due course, and it is instructive to compare the rate of tax which would be payable upon incomes "not exceeding" 700*l*. This rate is as low in some cases as one farthing (about) in the pound upon an income of 400*l*., as will be seen below. The net tax payable by individuals, after deducting the statutory abatements upon an income of 400*l*., is at the rate of 4 8*d*. in the pound; upon 500*l*., 5 6*d*.; upon 600*l*., 6 4*d*. in the pound; upon 700*l*., 7 2*d*. in the pound. In the case of married persons whose joint incomes do not exceed 500*l*., and when, of this income, the wife derives not less than 160*l*. and not more than 340*l*. from a trade, profession, employment, or vocation, the net rate of tax payable under the statute is, upon an income of 400*l*., at the rate of 1 6*d*. in the pound, upon 500*l*. at the rate of 2 8 8*d*. in the pound.

The above rates do not, however, represent the minimum that may be payable upon the respective incomes, as the calculations take no account of the allowance in respect of life-assurance premiums. This allowance is one-sixth of the total taxed income, and the result is that in the case of a joint income not exceeding 400*l*., not less than 160*l*. of which is the wife's earnings, and life-assurance premiums are paid amounting to 66*l*., tax would only be payable on 14*l*. at 8*d*., which amounts to 9*s*. 4*d*., equal to 0 23*d*., or barely over one farthing in the pound.

Most people pay more tax than they are liable to pay, and we are at all times willing to advise the public gratuitously whether they can make a claim for the repayment of tax, on their sending us full particulars, and a stamped addressed envelope.

Yours faithfully,

THE INCOME-TAX ADJUSTMENT AGENCY.

12 and 13 Poultry, London, E.C., June 10.

The Training of the Chemist.

SIR,—It is with considerable interest that I have read your notice of M. Jules Lemaitre's lecture on modern education, as for some time past the conclusion that our present-day methods of education are more or less a failure has been gradually forcing itself on me.

The chief aim of education should be, I think, to teach a man how to think, and, consequently, how to act, for himself. It should train his mind so that he may be able to take an intelligent view of any subject, and to express his views on that subject clearly and concisely. It ought, in short, to place him in as fit a position as possible for grappling with those problems which in his after life are sure to face him. Does modern education do this? I think not. At school the student is taught a mass of facts concerning various subjects. What is to be inferred from these facts? The principles underlying them, or how he is to apply his knowledge of them in future life, he is not taught. The consequence is that soon after leaving school he has forgotten the greater part of what he learned. After receiving what is

termed an elementary education at school, the student either goes to college to pursue his studies there, or enters some trade or craft at which he intends to make a living. What has been said of school training applies also, in great measure, I believe, to college training. As regards the craftsman, he now begins to receive his technical education, and this is frequently even more deficient than the scholastic one. Confining our attention to the drug-trade, how many druggists in business are either incapable of training, or too careless to train, an apprentice properly? Generally, the master shows his apprentice some particular method of performing this or that operation; the reason of the operation, or why it should be done in this particular way, he does not explain—probably he does not know. The result is that the apprentice, instead of taking an interest in his work and going about it in an intelligent manner, often does it carelessly and mechanically.

Besides learning his trade the druggist's assistant has his "Minor" examination to pass. The subjects for this are chemistry, botany, materia medica, pharmacy, and dispensing. Of these, chemistry is the chief stumbling-block to the "Minor" student. Why? Simply because it is the one which requires most thought, and the student never having been taught to think finds it hard work to begin now. Nor does the position in which he is placed render his task any easier. Many candidates have only the few hours they can get at night, after spending ten hours or so behind the counter, in which to get up the subjects. Most of the text-books on chemistry, too, afford but poor aid to the seeker after enlightenment. Either they slur over the fundamental principles of the science, or set them forth so abstrusely that the student with partly fagged-out brain fails to grasp their application. To the text-books in botany similar fault may be found. One part of the text-book treats minutely of morphology, another part goes fully into histology, whilst a third deals with the details of physiology. The connection between these three and the wonderful laws of nature governing the whole are seldom thought worthy of notice.

With but limited time and imperfect facilities for study, is it surprising that we find the results set forth in the report of the Scotch Examining Board published in the *C. & D.* of February 5? The unflattering comments made about the work of candidates in that report are all, I daresay, true, and I can quite appreciate the feelings of the examiners who made them, but I think they err in attributing the blame solely to the students and their teachers. They have got untrained, or worse still, wrongly trained minds to work on, they have some half-dozen subjects all requiring more or less thoughtful study to instil into these minds at once, and the time they have to do so is but limited.

Where the fault partly lies I have endeavoured to point out, and I think the lines on which the examination is at present conducted are considerably to blame. The Pharmaceutical Society having set up the high standard which it has done in this examination, instead of offering such impracticable counsel as is given in "Advice to Students" issued from Bloomsbury Square, and throwing the onus of failure on the candidate, ought to consider if it cannot by some means make it more possible for him to attain this standard.

If instead of having to cram up all the subjects at once, candidates were allowed to take them one or two at a time, they would master them more thoroughly, and better results would be obtained. Under the present system a candidate may pass most of his subjects at one examination; at the next he has to go through these same subjects again, with the result that not unfrequently he comes down in a subject which he had previously passed. This clearly proves that, as a test of a candidate's knowledge or ability, the present examination is a failure. It would also be an advantage to students if the Society, instead of issuing an indefinite syllabus, were to select text-books embracing the subjects of examination, and directing examiners to found their questions on the work covered in these books.

If these suggestions are impracticable, surely something at least can be done to lighten the burden of the Minor candidate who, in face of repeated failure for which not he but our present system of education and examination is to blame, struggles manfully to get through an examination, success or failure in which to him is a very serious consideration indeed.

Yours, &c.,

STUDENT. (210/50).

LEGAL QUERIES.

We do not give legal opinions by post. Information regarding most legal matters in connection with pharmacy will be found in THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, and in "Pharmacy and Poison Laws of the United Kingdom," and Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty."

193/22. *Hypophosph.*—A medicine sold at not more than 2s. 9d. (including stamp) only requires a 3d. stamp.

197/40. *Opal.*—If your contract for the pots was duly agreed to you can claim delivery within a reasonable time or damages for breach of contract. The best way for estimating the damages would be to buy the pots elsewhere, and claim the difference in the price. But it would be wise to give due notice of your intention to do this. It would be for the Court to decide what was "a reasonable time."

191/44. *Caedmon* has let a part of the walls of his premises as an advertising-station. The local authorities have assessed him on the full 30 per cent. of the rent of this. Is this legal?—In assessing property for the poor-rate the difference between the gross value and the rateable value is arrived at by considering what necessary outgoings there are payable by the landlord to command the rent in question, such as repairs, voids, and the like. If the advertising-station would not require any such repairs, or if same have been taken into account in assessing the house itself, then the Assessment Committee have rightly assessed you at the full rental value as the rateable value. No doubt they have assumed, what is probably a fact, that the advertiser undertakes to keep the station in repair. You ought to have made the tenant pay the rates and taxes for the station.

206/2. *Gyp.*—If you are prepared with medical evidence that your health is such as to unfit you to complete the term of your apprenticeship, that will be a good defence in the event of your employer suing your father for breach of indentures. It would be advisable to settle the matter quietly.

201/33. *Pil. Hyd.* writes:—"A sells a business to B, with written agreement that he will not oppose B in the same place. B tires of business, and sells to C. Is there anything to prevent A opening again in the same parish, his agreement being with B only?" [No. But the agreement is an unusual one. It is customary to specify that the vendor will not engage in business within a certain area of the one he disposes of for a certain period.]

208/24. *Powder.*—If you are a licensed medicine-vendor you may break open a stamped packet of powders, pills, &c., and retail out the contents, provided you do not make them up into a new packet. You may screw such pills, &c., in paper, but must not box them or fasten the paper with gum, wax, string, &c.

202/3. *Chemicus.*—You will find the legal lists of poisons in our DIARY, page 210. You should read the whole article.

207/20. *K. M. H.*—We do not think you could show a Court sufficient cause to recover any part of the apprenticeship-fee you paid, as it was by your own choice that you severed the connection. Your employer should give you the certificate of the time you served with him, but we know of no power to compel him to do so. The Pharmaceutical Society (Ireland) will in case of his refusal accept evidence from another source, which you can no doubt get.

206/7. *Pop.*—Many questions under the Workmen's Compensation Act are likely to arise for settlement in the law courts. Yours may be one, but we cannot think it doubtful that the scale of compensation based on the amount of wages will be calculated on the average of the income actually made by such workmen in cases like yours, where the workmen are paid partly in fixed wages and partly on commission; that is, the commission will be reckoned as wages.

156/27. *House.*—You and your landlord have made a mutual agreement as to your quitting, and there is nothing in the laws relating to landlord and tenant to prevent that. The mutual agreement is a contract which you can only withdraw from with the consent of the other party.

206/45. *Limited.*—Limited companies must make periodical returns to the registrar, and such returns, when filed, are available for public inspection. All the meetings provided by the statute must be held, and may be confined to the shareholders solely. If, for example, your own family constitute the shareholders, you may hold the meeting at your own fireside.

210/33. *F. M.*—You may sell small quantities of benzine without holding a petrolcum-licence if you keep it in stoppered bottles of not more than 1-pint capacity, and have not more than 3 gals. in stock. You must label it with your name and address, the name of the article, and the words "highly inflammable."

210/37. *Nemo.*—An M.P.S.I. is legally unqualified in England, and is liable to a penalty if he either owns a shop kept for the sale of poisons, or if he personally sells a poison.

210/20. *Patent.*—When you have got provisional protection you can safely offer your invention to a wholesale house; but if it is approved, you will do well to complete your patent as quickly as possible.

203/23. *Pharmacist.*—Although the article is advertised at 4s. 6d., all that the Revenue requires is that the medicine shall be stamped as the law directs. A 2s. 6d. article requires a 3d. stamp, and if anyone chooses to sell a 4s. article at 2s. 6d. the Revenue authorities cannot compel him to put more than 3d. duty upon it.

203/64. *Ducie.*—Although the rule of the trade in regard to termination of engagements is a month's notice on either side, that may be set aside by mutual agreement. If your weekly salary is paid in an envelope bearing a notice that "the payment of weekly salaries does not constitute a weekly engagement, and the employé is subject to instant dismissal," your acceptance of the salary would constitute tacit acceptance of that condition; but if your employers did not inform you of the condition before engaging you, and you objected to it as soon as you became aware of it, you would have a good case against them on the "trade-custom" basis.

210/1. *Perplexed.*—The verbal understanding which you allege being to a certain degree inconsistent with the agreement you signed, you would, we think, find it difficult to satisfy a Court that it was a part of the contract. We are assuming that your antagonists would deny that any such understanding was intended.

211/14. *Beta.*—If you have two businesses of the same kind you may make one return for the two, setting off any loss at the one against profits at the other. But you are not entitled to do this in respect of concerns which are totally distinct the one from the other.

203/57. *Calisaya.*—The temporary licence, if granted, will only be valid, we understand, until the next licensing sessions.

246/10. *Veterinary Chemist.*—If you can bring evidence in support of all that you state in your letter we think you will have no difficulty in winning your case. Should you be served with a writ consult your solicitor. You cannot be compelled to produce your poison-book, but you may be ordered to state what is in the mixture, and you should be prepared to give the judge a copy of the formula for the use of himself and counsel. Your liability depends upon whether or not your opponent can prove that he strictly followed the directions on the label, and that the drench was an improper remedy for the lambs. You should have no difficulty with a good lawyer in rebutting such evidence.

217/31. *T. B. C.*—You are not justified in "using" the title of pharmaceutical chemist, not even in the way of stating that you are successor to one.

MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

We reply to subscribers and their employes only upon subjects of interest to other readers generally. When more than one

Notice to Querists. query is sent write each on a separate piece of paper. When a sample accompanies a query full particulars regarding the origin and use of the sample must be given, and it must be distinctly labelled. Queries are not replied to by post, and those sent anonymously are disregarded.

213/8. *H. & Co.*—Sticky Fly-papers.—See *C. & D.*, July 10, 1897, page 66, or "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 331.

214/71. *Natref.*—The Secretary of the Society of Apothecaries (Mr. F. Haydon) will send you particulars of the Apothecaries' 'Assistants' examination if you ask him.

215/3. *Brussels.*—There are several good cachou-recipes in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 412.

215/33. *H. P. L.*—We note your suggestions for consideration when the DIARY is being prepared. Thanks.

214/68. *C. D. M.* (Jamaica).—Heavy petroleum oil is generally used as a lubricant for bicycles. You could use it for polishing the plated parts if you wished, but chalk damped with liquid ammonia is better.

214/60. *J. M.*—(1) To make 1 gallon of 90-per-cent. (58 o.p.) alcohol from the old 55 o.p. spirit mix 142½ oz. of S.V.R., 56 o.p., with 18 oz. absolute alcohol. (2) To make a gallon of 70-per-cent. alcohol mix 126½ oz. of 56 o.p. spirit with 36½ oz. of water. (3) The need for converting 55 o.p. spirit into the spirits of the new B.P. is only temporary, the 90-per-cent. spirit being sent out by all makers now.

212/21. *Greenhill.*—A dentifrice containing a fair proportion of powdered pumice or cuttle-fish is best for removing stains from the teeth. There are several suitable recipes in "Pharmaceutical Formulas."

202/60. *Capsules.*—The capsule-machines on page 498 of the 1898 DIARY are for either soft or hard capsules.

212/10. *Bon.*—(1) Meldola's "Chemistry of Photography." (2) Yes.

212/3. *Radix.*—There are two good formulæ for fly and maggot oils in "Veterinary Counter-practice," page 286.

215/53. *Euchlorine.*—To make a saturated solution of chlorine for ophthalmic practice your best plan will be to use the ordinary text-book method (black oxide of manganese and hydrochloric acid), purifying the gas by passing it through a little water before passing it into the final bottle of water. Chlorine evolved from chlorate of potash and hydrochloric acid is not pure.

215/68. *Civet.*—In "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 47, there are several good freckle-lotions.

213/46. *Vertical.*—We think you will find that shaking the coppered oil of lemon with some fullers'-earth powder will remove the green colour. There are several methods of chemical treatment you could try, but they all more or less affect the flavour of the oil.

212/13. *Montalto.*—To improve sheep's wool for the show-ward it is first washed with a wash containing borax, and when dry combed with a coarse comb.

190/47. *Lact. Cone.*—In making Condensed Milk the milk is strained and then heated to 175° F. by steam-coils, after which it is evaporated in jacketed vacuum-pans, into which a stream of milk is kept flowing as fast as evaporation proceeds. Sugar is added towards the end of the process as a preservative. There are, of course, many other details necessary for carrying on the manufacture on a commercial scale.

214/67. *A Subscriber for Seventeen Years* (N.S.W.).—Your writing-ink differs from those which you mention in not being acid in reaction, and this accounts for yours being affected by ammonia. It would be advisable for you to add, say, 2 dr. of sulphuric acid to the ferrous-sulphate solution before adding to the solution of tannic and gallic acids, and if you could keep the ink for from three to six months before bottling it would dry blacker. We have treated the whole subject so fully in "Pharmaceutical Formulas" that we must refer you to pages 351-359 in that work for the details and explanations, which are too long to reproduce here. You can obtain the work from our Sydney or Melbourne offices.

214/16. *Parvus.*—The Nit-ointment is made in the way indicated in *C. & D.*, December 25, 1897, page 1005.

210/64. *W. C.*—Plate-backing Solution—There is a formula on page 392 of *C. & D.* DIARY, 1896, which answers well.

203/23. *Pharmacist.*—Glycerine and Almond-cream.—There is a good recipe for this in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 10.

216/29. *E. B.*—Liniment for Cramp in the arms after rowing. Try lin. tereb. acet., B.P.

214/32. *Perplexed* (Agra).—We understand that aniline dyes are used for colouring ice. A few experiments would soon show which are most suitable to use, and as you have the freezing-machine you are better able to conduct them than we are.

209/50. *Livingstone.*—From replies furnished by our Leeds correspondent we are able to inform you that although there is no School of Pharmacy at Leeds, there are ample facilities for a student wishing to prepare for the Minor. There are evening courses at the Technical Schools in chemistry and botany during the winter months, and a course of practical botany in the summer. The Leeds Chemists' Association occasionally arrange a materia-medica course, and have a very good cabinet of specimens.

216/43. *G. W. B.*—The nursery hair-lotion formula is all right, but somewhat complicated. The nits are subsequently removed from the hair by combing, after applying a lotion of brandy and glycerin.

INFORMATION WANTED.

The Editor will be obliged for replies to the following from any who can furnish the information.

190/15. Makers of enamelled letters.

216/47. Address of maker of Dr. Faber's varicose-vein plasters, or where obtainable.

216/62. Address of proprietors of McKenzies' asthma-cure and Norris's condition-powders.

215/27. Medicine-chest books in various foreign languages: who publishes?

Coming Events.

We insert notices of association and society meetings in this section free if they are sent to us, on postcards, by the Wednesday of the week before the meetings are to be held.

The Western Chemists' Association (of London). Summer outing on July 21. Train to Henley, from whence a trip up the river in electric launch. Cold luncheon and tea on board. Tickets, 16s., from President, Mr. T. H. Mathews, 63 Queen's Gardens, W., or of the Hon. Secs.

Tuesday, June 28.

The North-East Lancashire Chemists' Association. Special general meeting. To consider the Government Poisons Bill now before the Lords.